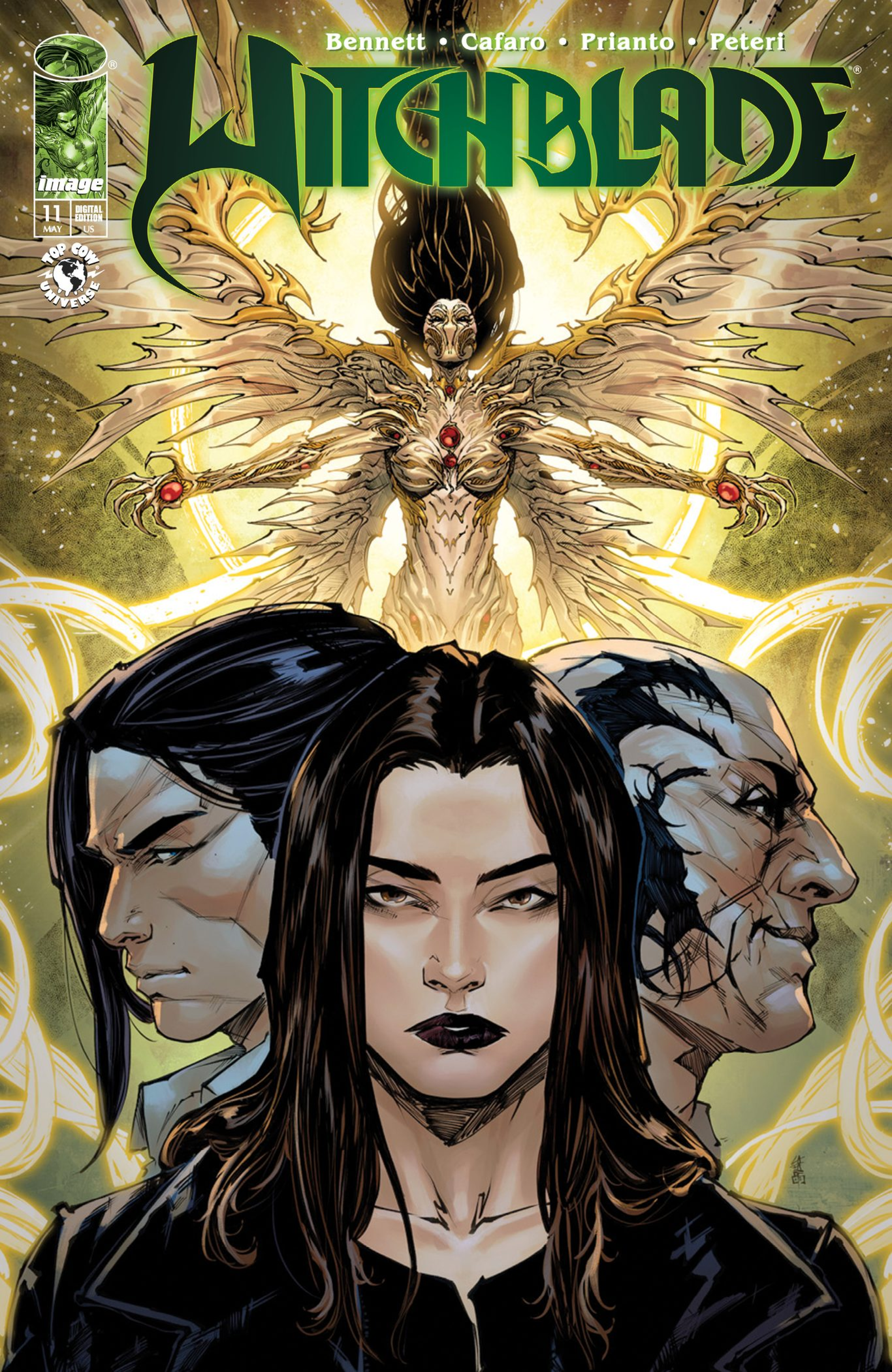
Bennett • Cafaro • Prianto • Peteri

WITCHBLADE

11
MAY
DIGITAL EDITION
US



WITCHBLADE®

created by **Marc Silvestri**, **David Wohl**, **Brian Haberlin** & **Michael Turner**

New York City Police Detective Sara Pezzini's life was forever fractured by her father's murder. Cold, cunning, and hellbent on revenge, Sara now stalks a vicious criminal cabal beneath the city. During a brutal warehouse massacre, Sara bonded with the Witchblade, an ancient weapon that transformed her into something wild, magnificent, and beyond her darkest imaginings.

Previously...Sara's search into the cover-up that destroyed her father and the supernatural forces surrounding her has led to billionaire Kenneth Irons. Irons has money, power, and associates from the darkest corners of the underworld. Realizing that Irons has been playing everyone, mob enforcer Jackie Estacado, nascent bearer of The Darkness, gives Sara a lead on a third party who has information on the human trafficking operation that led Sara on this path. The malevolent Mr. Smith, also known as Sonatine. A mysterious figure with an interest in keeping Sara away from Jackie for reasons not yet clear. In a public encounter, Sara confronts Sonatine, but their meeting is interrupted as the Creosote manifestation of Vinter attacks them, corrupting everyone in the vicinity. After the brutal fight, assisted by Jackie, Sonatine gives Sara a sickle key, a supernatural relic that can open a pocket dimension that leads to the Creosote hive. Sara and Ian Nottingham enter the nest but are followed by Sara's partner, Michael Yee, who is shot, forcing Sara into an impossible choice to save her partner's life.

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

Written by **Marguerite Bennett**
Line art by **Giuseppe Cafaro**
Colors by **Arif Prianto**
Letters by **Troy Peteri**
Edits by **Marc Silvestri**, **Matt Hawkins** and **Ryan Cady**

Cover A: **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**
Cover B: **C.P. Smith**
Top Cow Store Foil Exclusive: **C.P. Smith**

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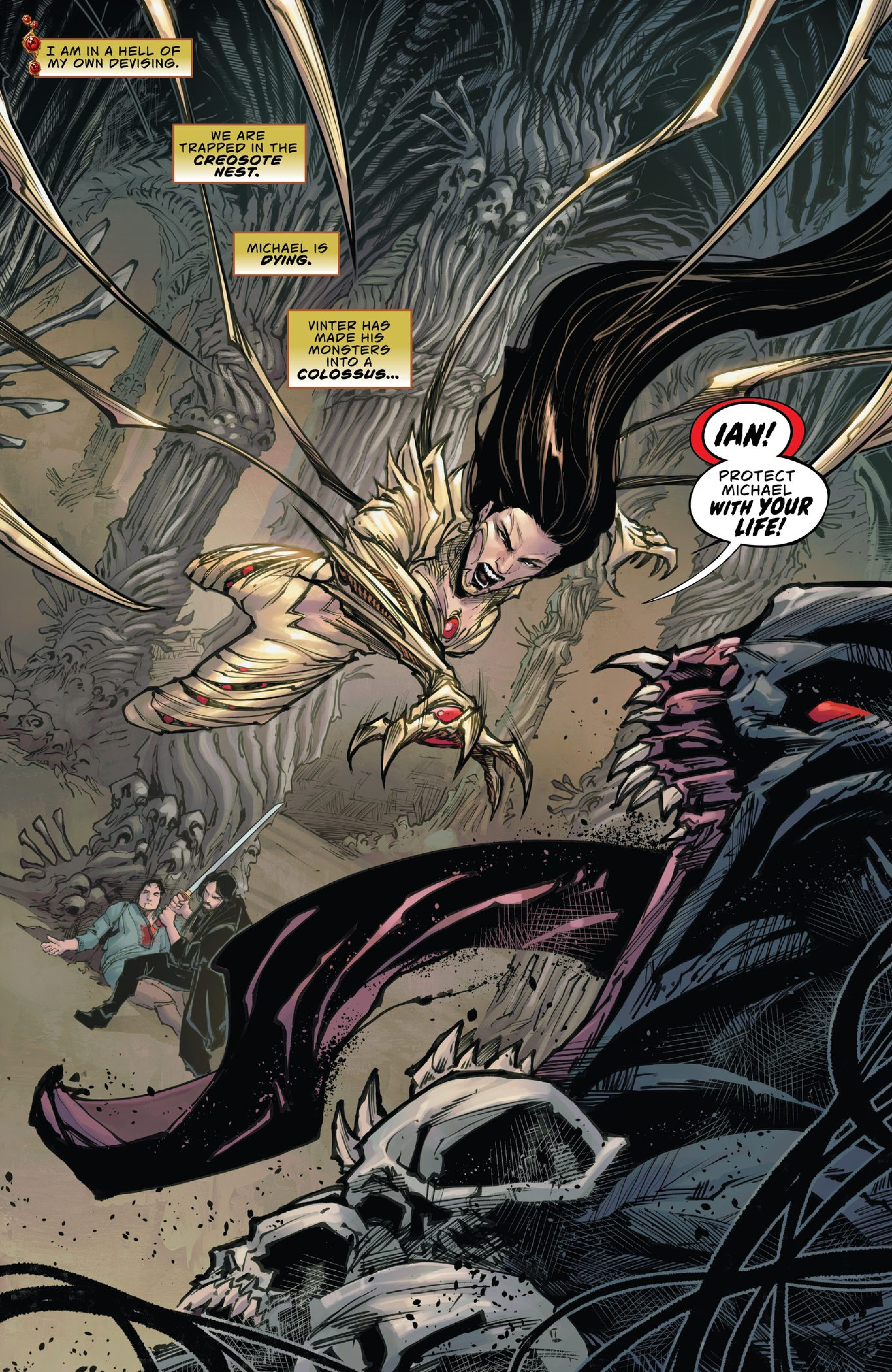
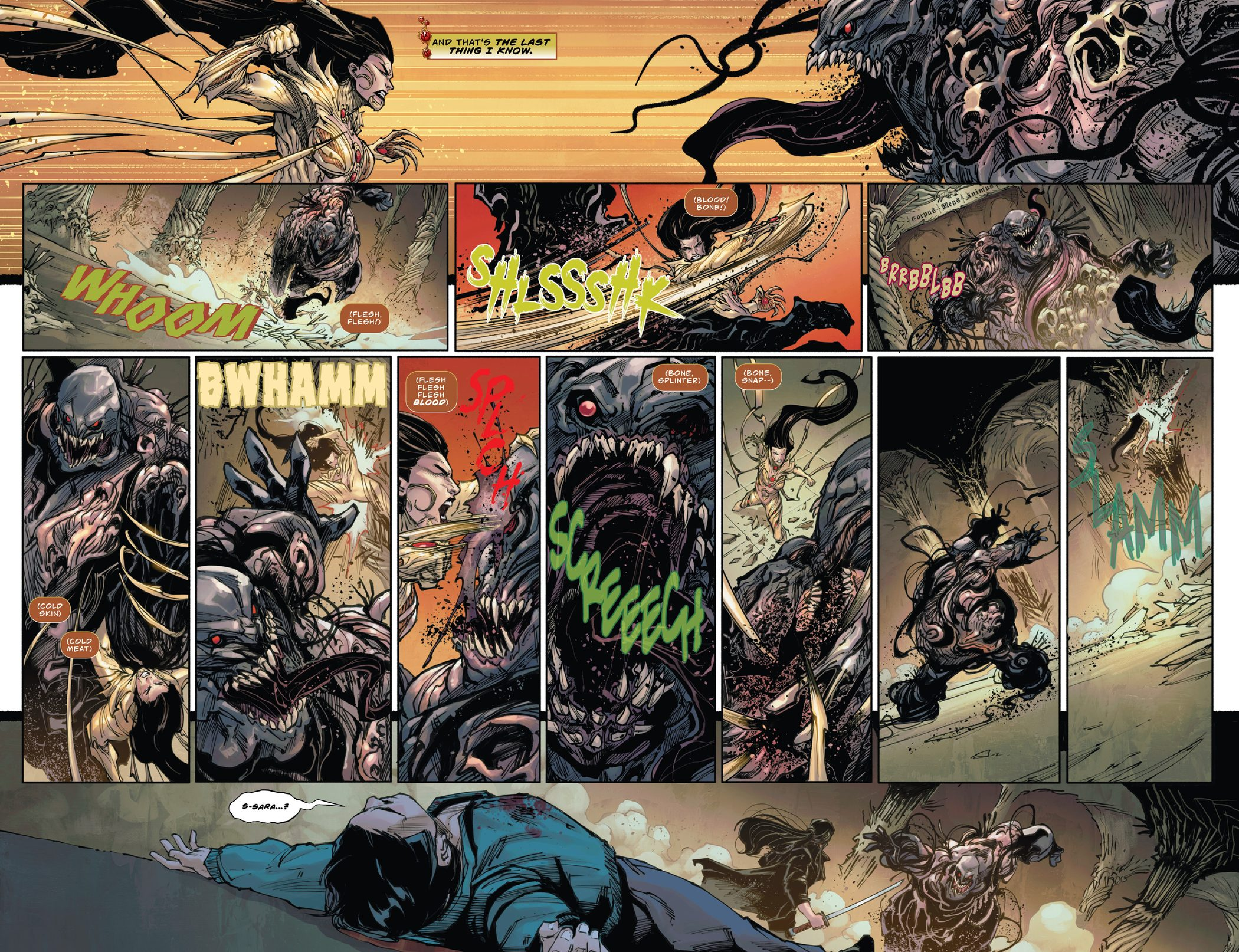
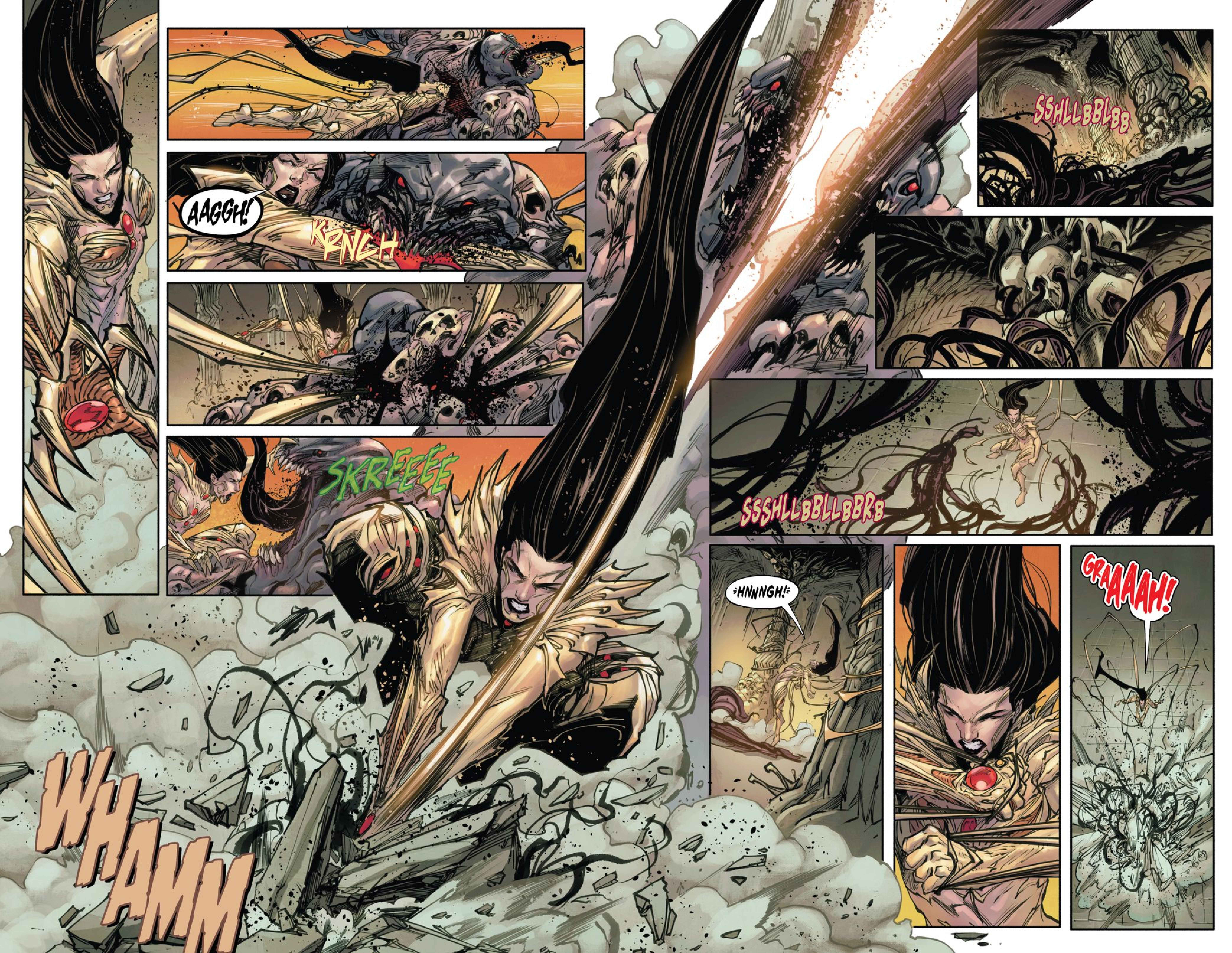
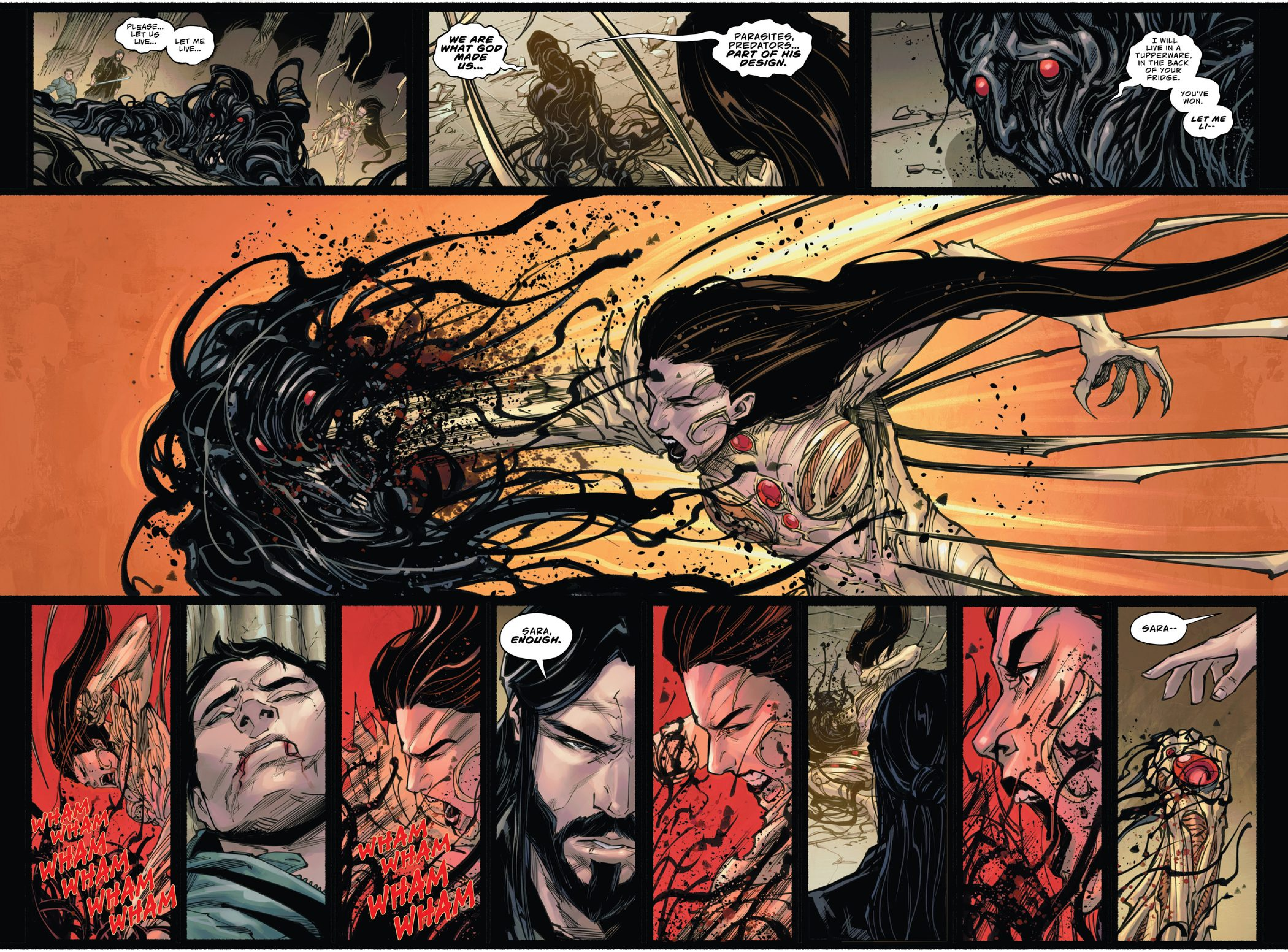
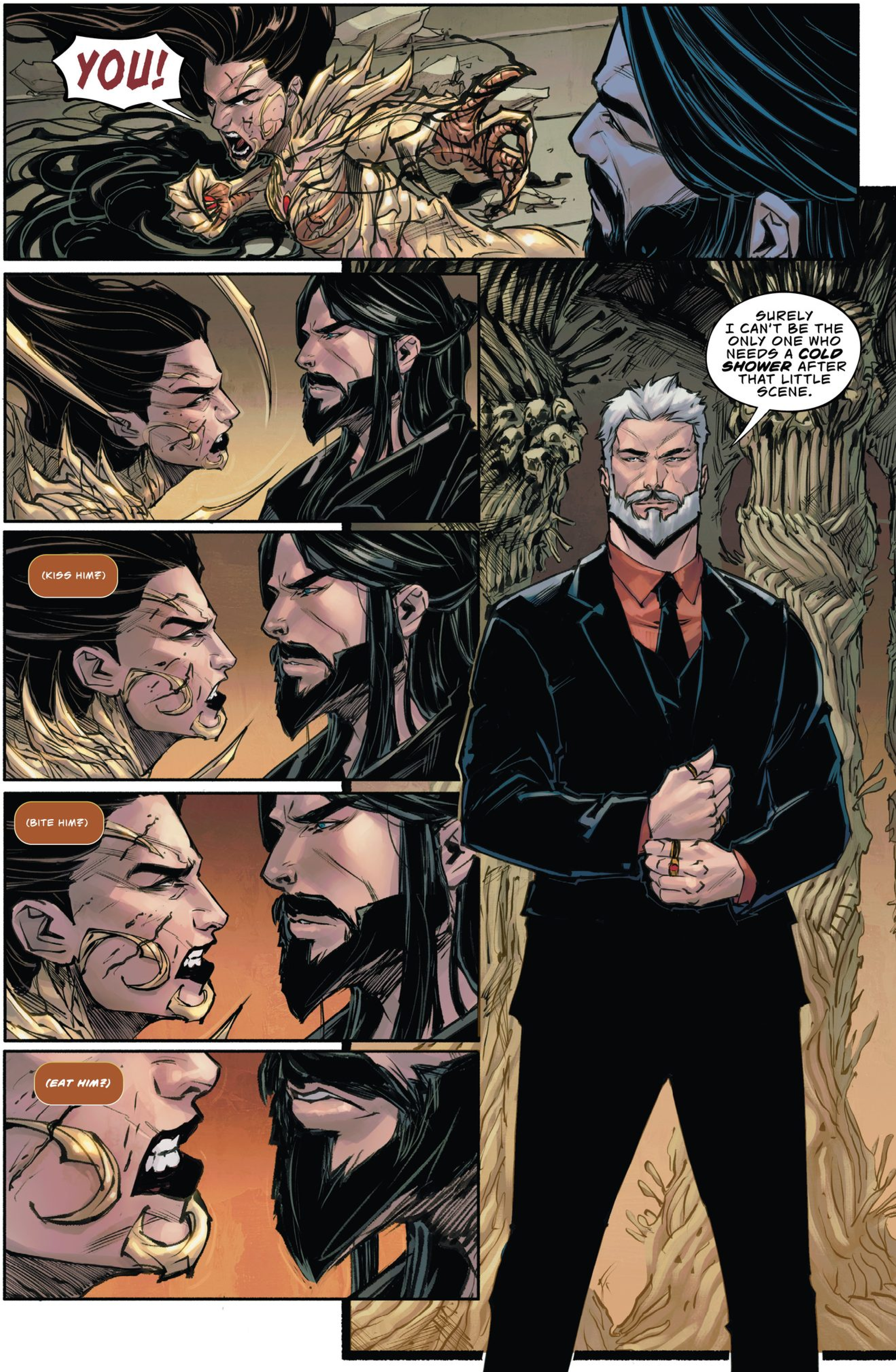
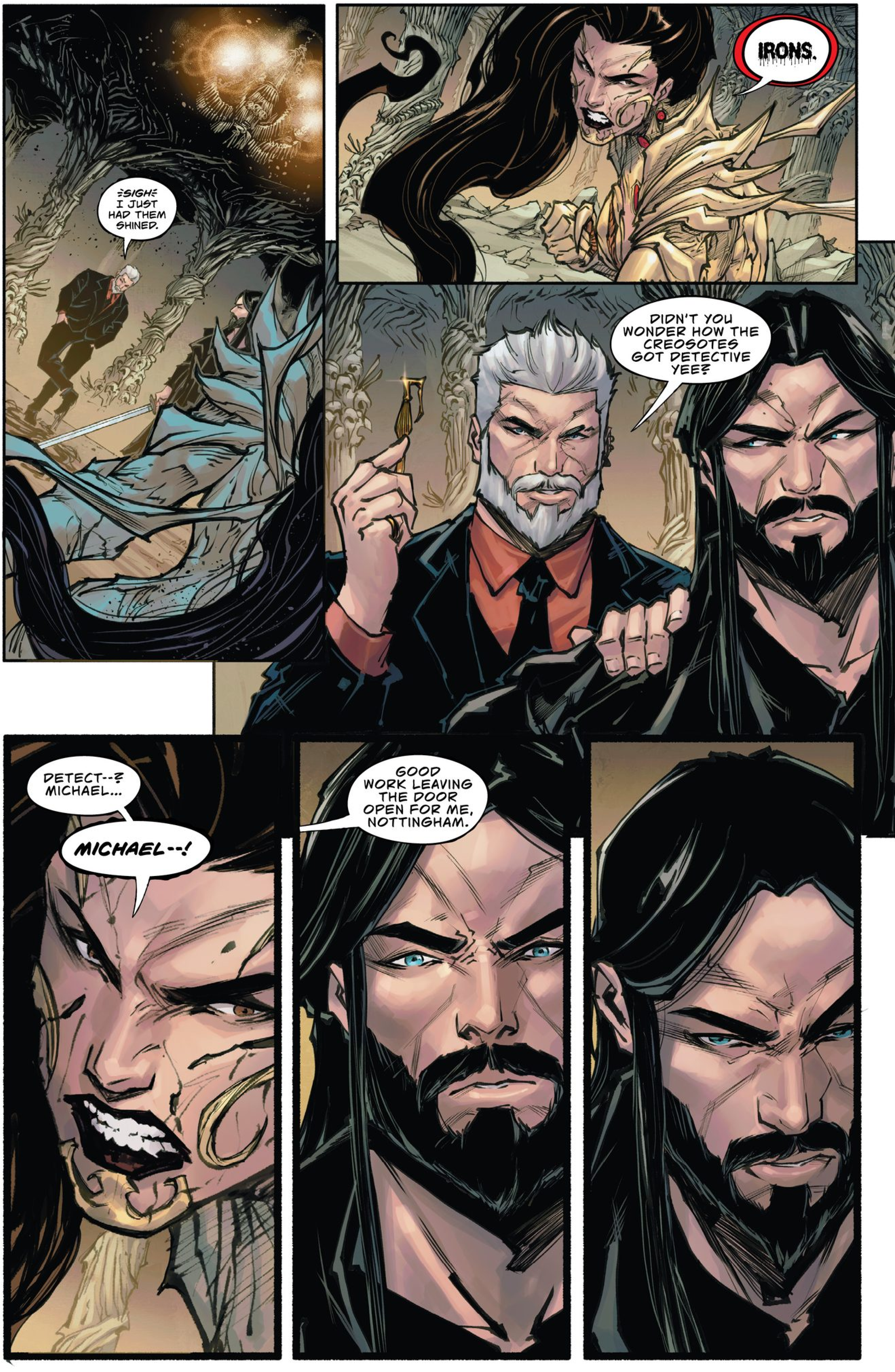

I AM IN A HELL OF MY OWN DEVISING.
WE ARE TRAPPED IN THE CREOSOTE NEST.
MICHAEL IS DYING.
VINTER HAS MADE HIS MONSTERS INTO A COLOSSUS...
IAN! PROTECT MICHAEL WITH YOUR LIFE!

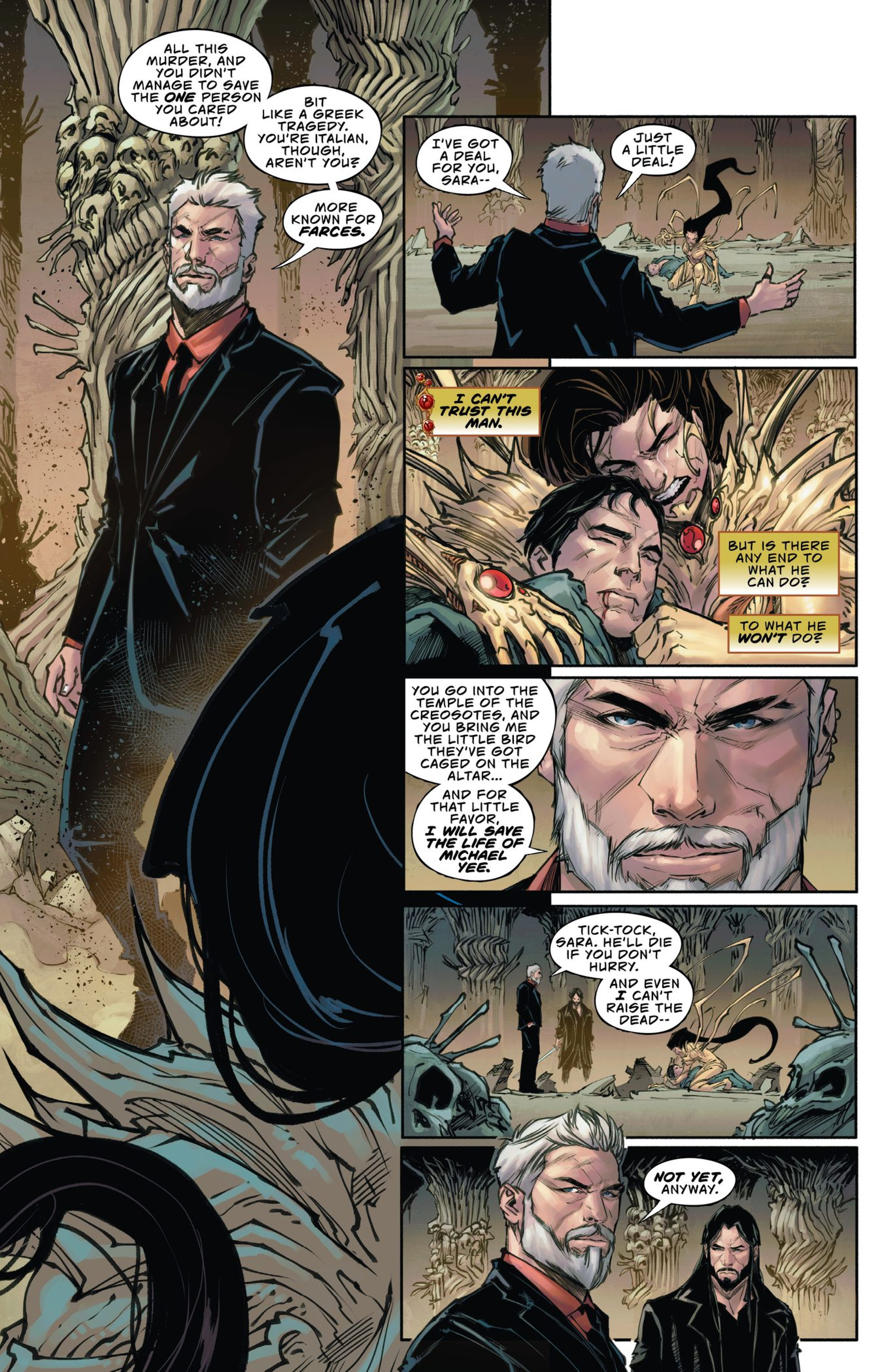

AND THAT'S *THE LAST THING I KNOW.*
WHOOM
(FLESH, FLESH!)
(BLOOD! BONE!)
SHLSSSHK
Corpus · Mens · Animus
BRRBBLBB
(COLD SKIN)
(COLD MEAT)
BWHAMM
(FLESH FLESH FLESH *BLOOD*)
SPLCH
(BONE, SPLINTER)
SCREEEECH
(BONE, SNAP--)
SLAMM
S-SARA...?

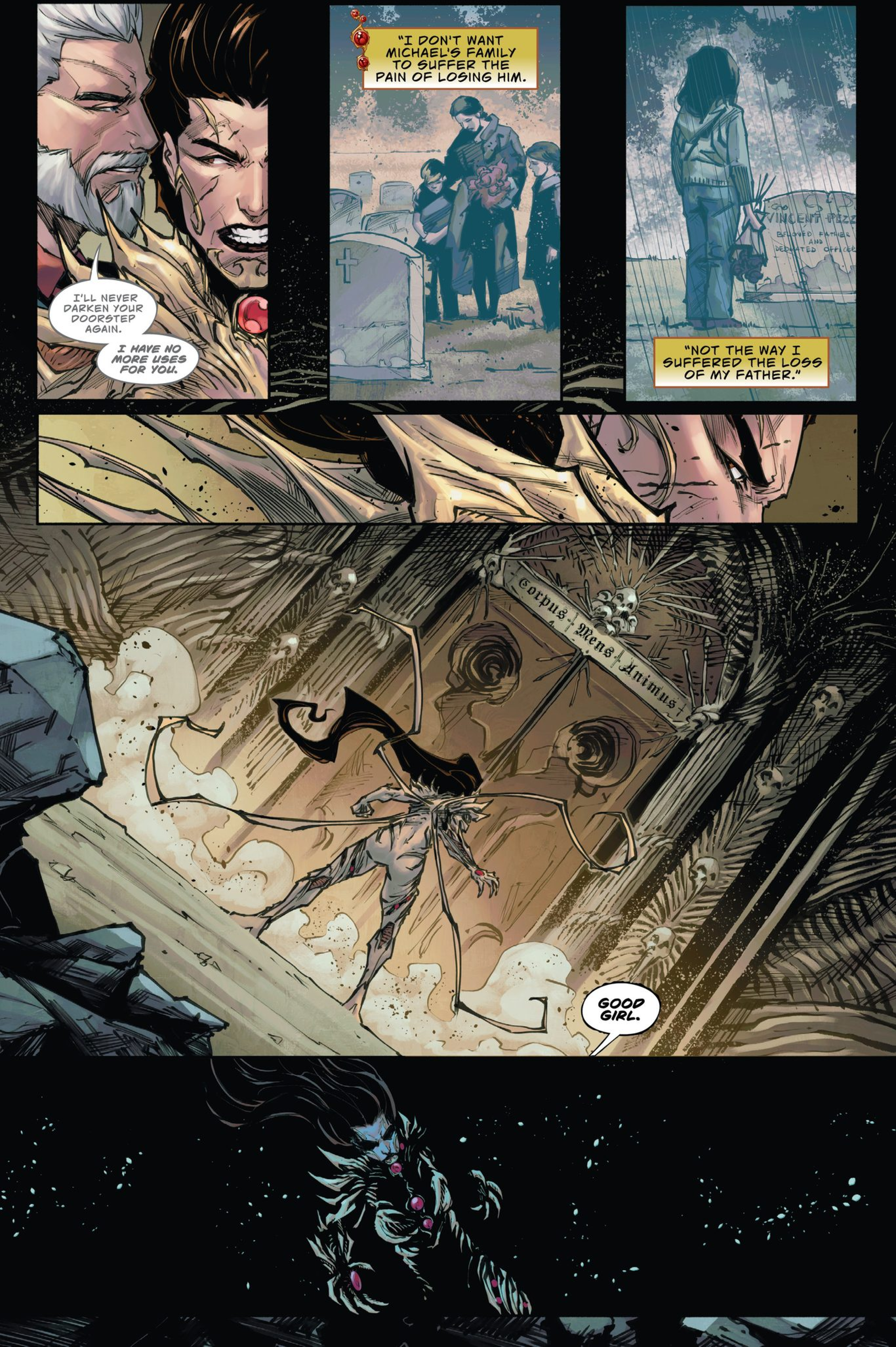

AAGGH!
KRNCH
SKREEEE
WHAMM
SSHLLBBLBB
SSSHLLBBLLBBRB
HNNNGH!
GRAAAAH!

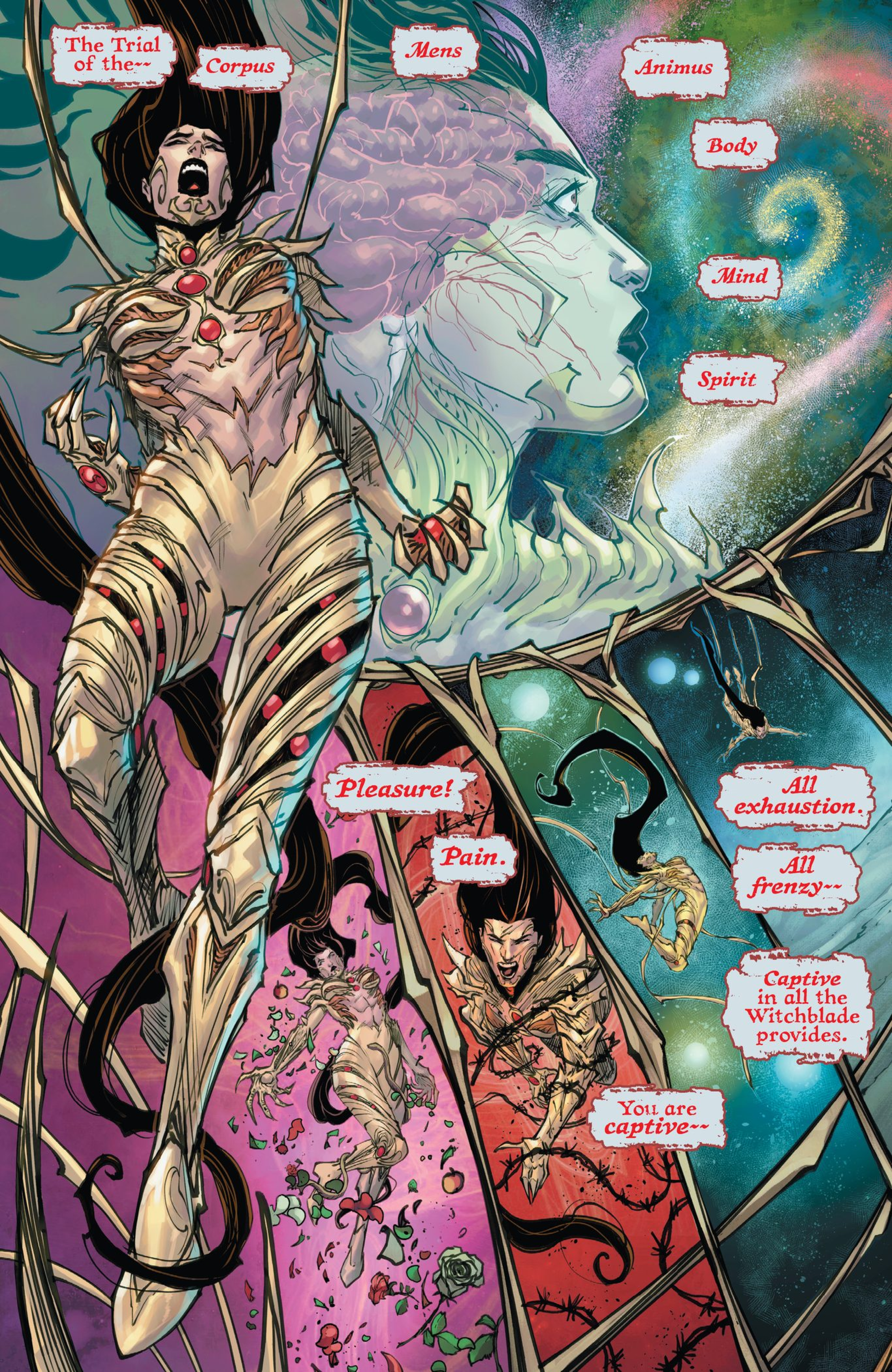

PLEASE... LET US LIVE...
LET ME LIVE...
WE ARE WHAT GOD MADE US...
PARASITES, PREDATORS... PART OF HIS DESIGN.
I WILL LIVE IN A TUPPERWARE, IN THE BACK OF YOUR FRIDGE.
YOU'VE WON.
LET ME LI--
WHAM WHAM WHAM WHAM WHAM WHAM
WHAM WHAM WHAM WHAM
SARA, ENOUGH.
SARA--

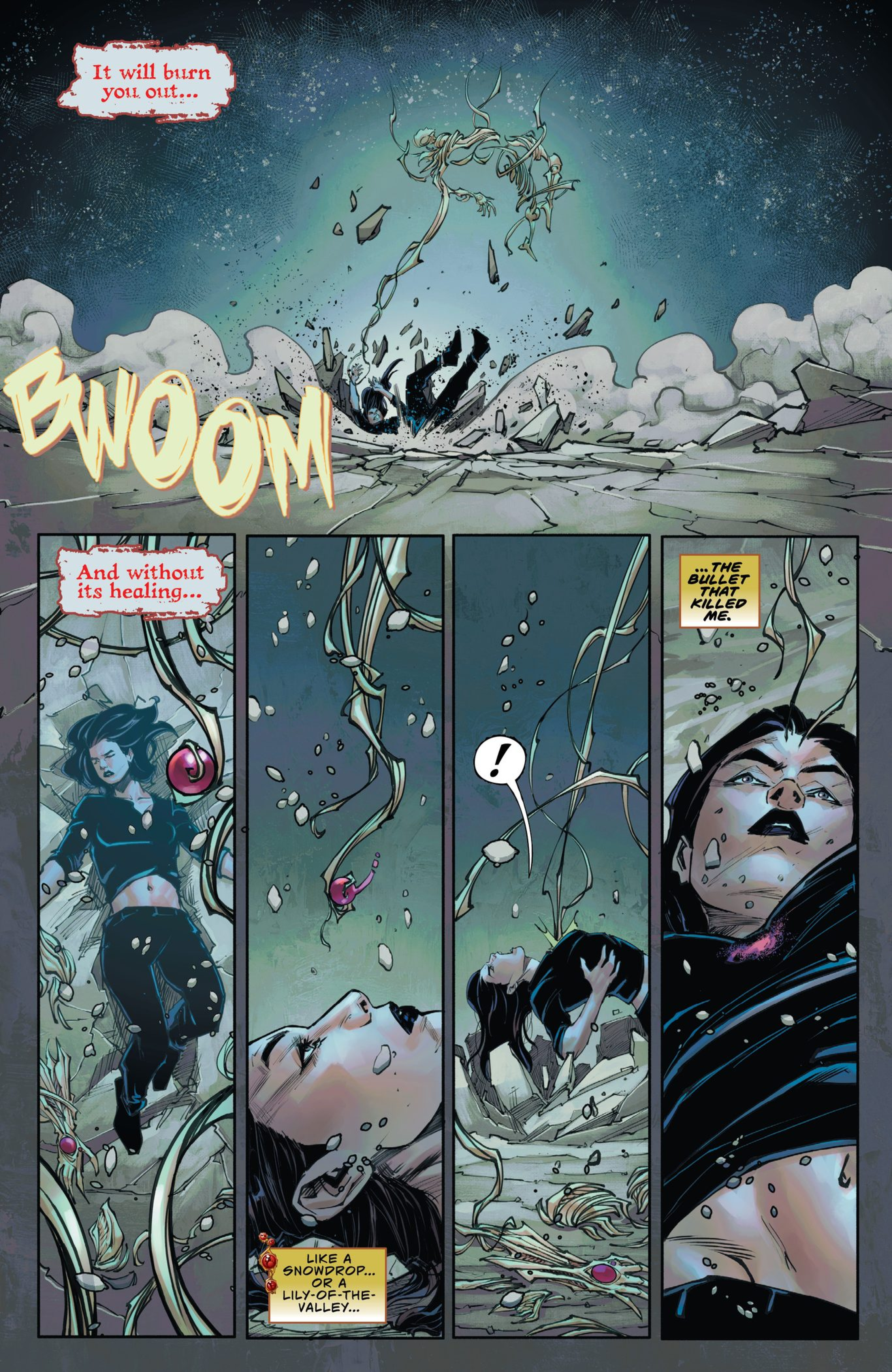

YOU!
(KISS HIM?)
(BITE HIM?)
(EAT HIM?)
SURELY I CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONE WHO NEEDS A **COLD SHOWER** AFTER THAT LITTLE SCENE.

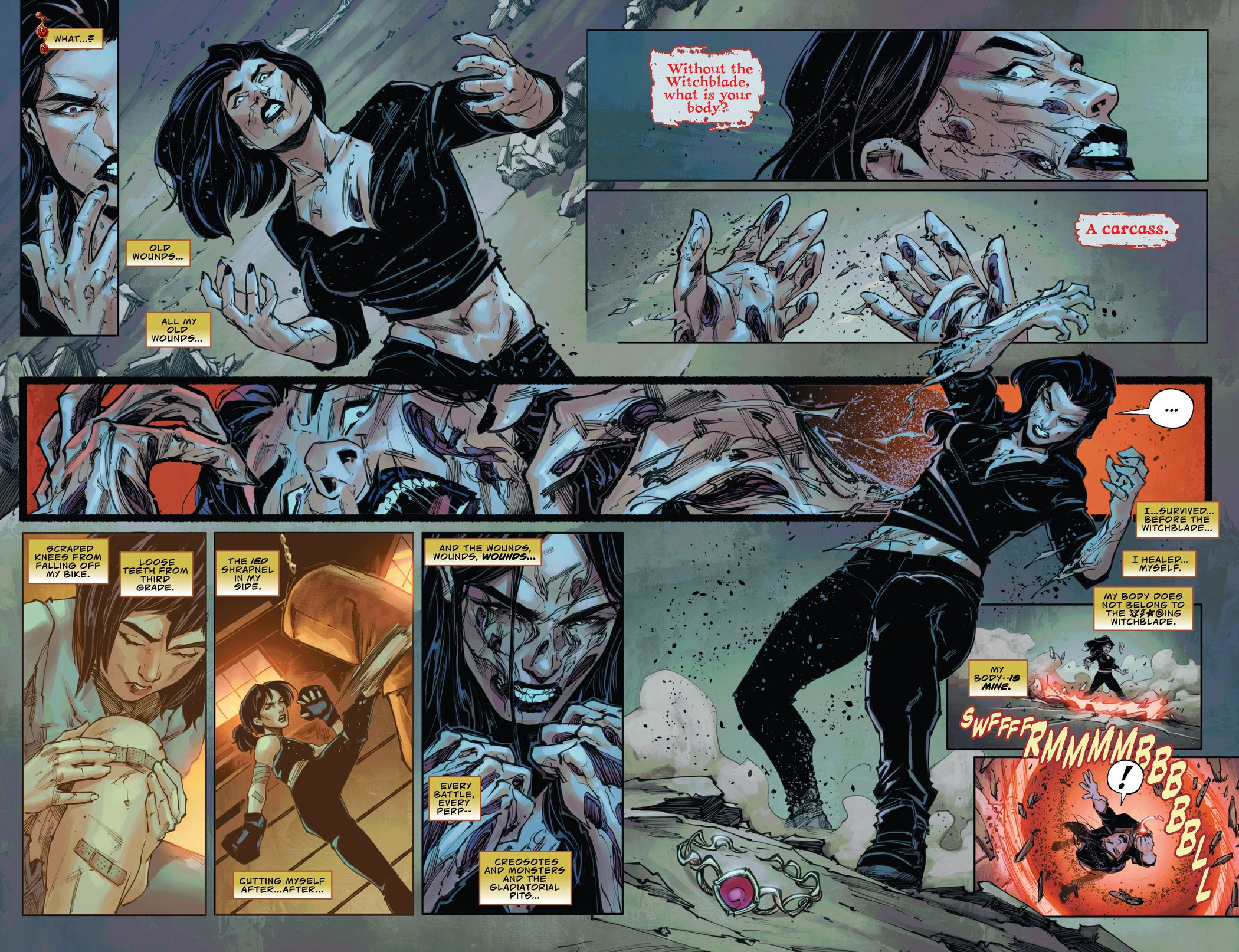

SIGH I JUST HAD THEM SHINED.
IRONS.
DIDN'T YOU WONDER HOW THE CREOSOTES GOT DETECTIVE YEE?
DETECT--? MICHAEL...
MICHAEL--!
GOOD WORK LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN FOR ME, NOTTINGHAM.

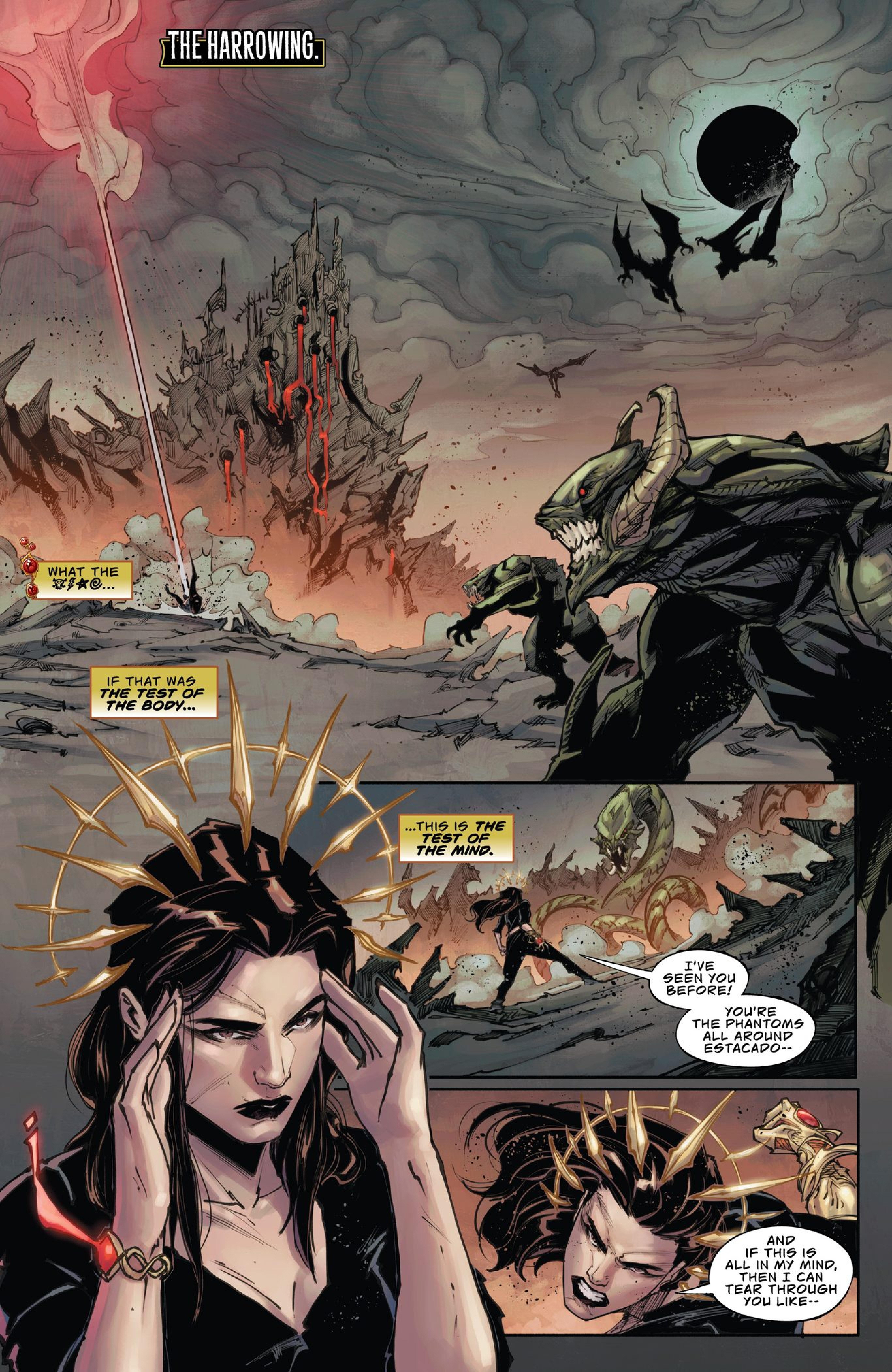

ALL THIS MURDER, AND YOU DIDN'T MANAGE TO SAVE THE **ONE** PERSON YOU CARED ABOUT!
BIT LIKE A GREEK TRAGEDY. YOU'RE ITALIAN, THOUGH, AREN'T YOU?
MORE KNOWN FOR **FARCES.**
I'VE GOT A DEAL FOR YOU, SARA--
JUST A LITTLE DEAL!
I CAN'T TRUST THIS MAN.
BUT IS THERE ANY END TO WHAT HE CAN DO?
TO WHAT HE ***WON'T*** DO?
YOU GO INTO THE TEMPLE OF THE CREOSOTES, AND YOU BRING ME THE LITTLE BIRD THEY'VE GOT CAGED ON THE ALTAR...
AND FOR THAT LITTLE FAVOR, ***I WILL SAVE THE LIFE OF MICHAEL YEE.***
TICK-TOCK, SARA. HE'LL DIE IF YOU DON'T HURRY.
AND EVEN ***I*** CAN'T RAISE THE DEAD--
NOT YET, ANYWAY.

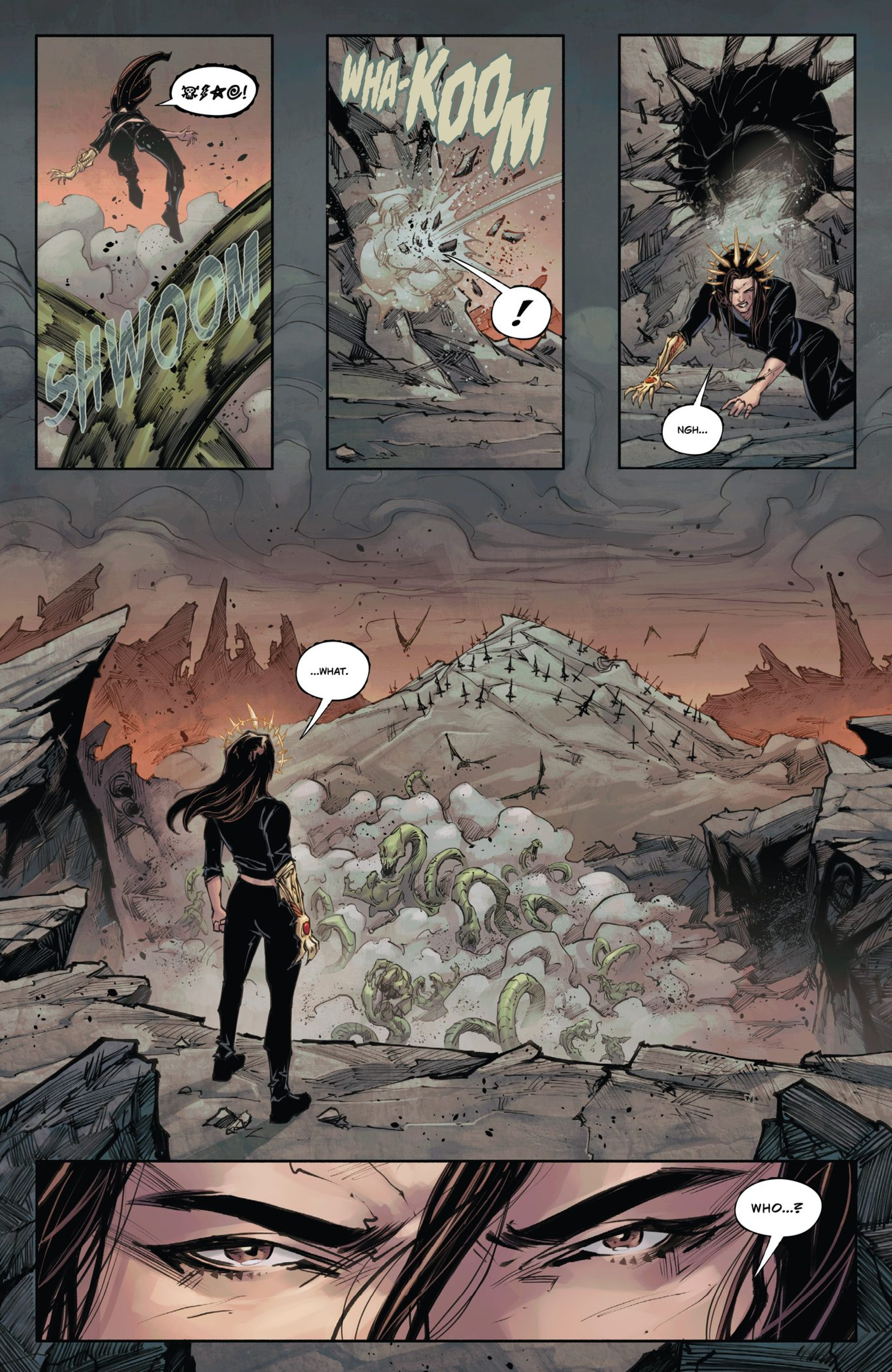

I'LL NEVER DARKEN YOUR DOORSTEP AGAIN.
I HAVE NO MORE USES FOR YOU.
"I DON'T WANT MICHAEL'S FAMILY TO SUFFER THE PAIN OF LOSING HIM.
VINCENT PIZZ
BELOVED FATHER AND DEDICATED OFFICE
"NOT THE WAY I SUFFERED THE LOSS OF MY FATHER."
Corpus Mens Animus
GOOD GIRL.

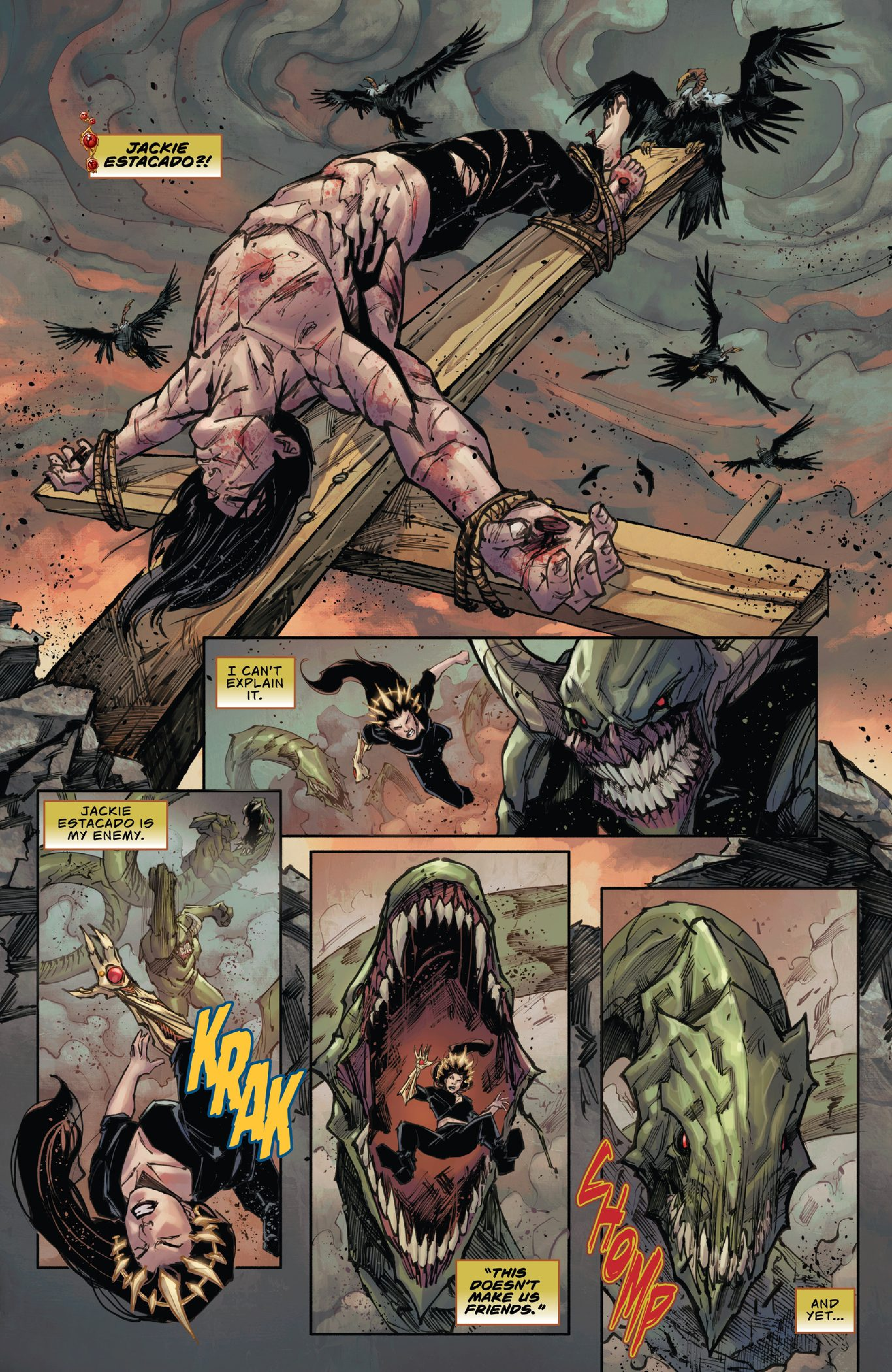

The Trial of the--
Corpus
Mens
Animus
Body
Mind
Spirit
Pleasure!
Pain.
All exhaustion.
All frenzy--
Captive in all the Witchblade provides.
You are captive--

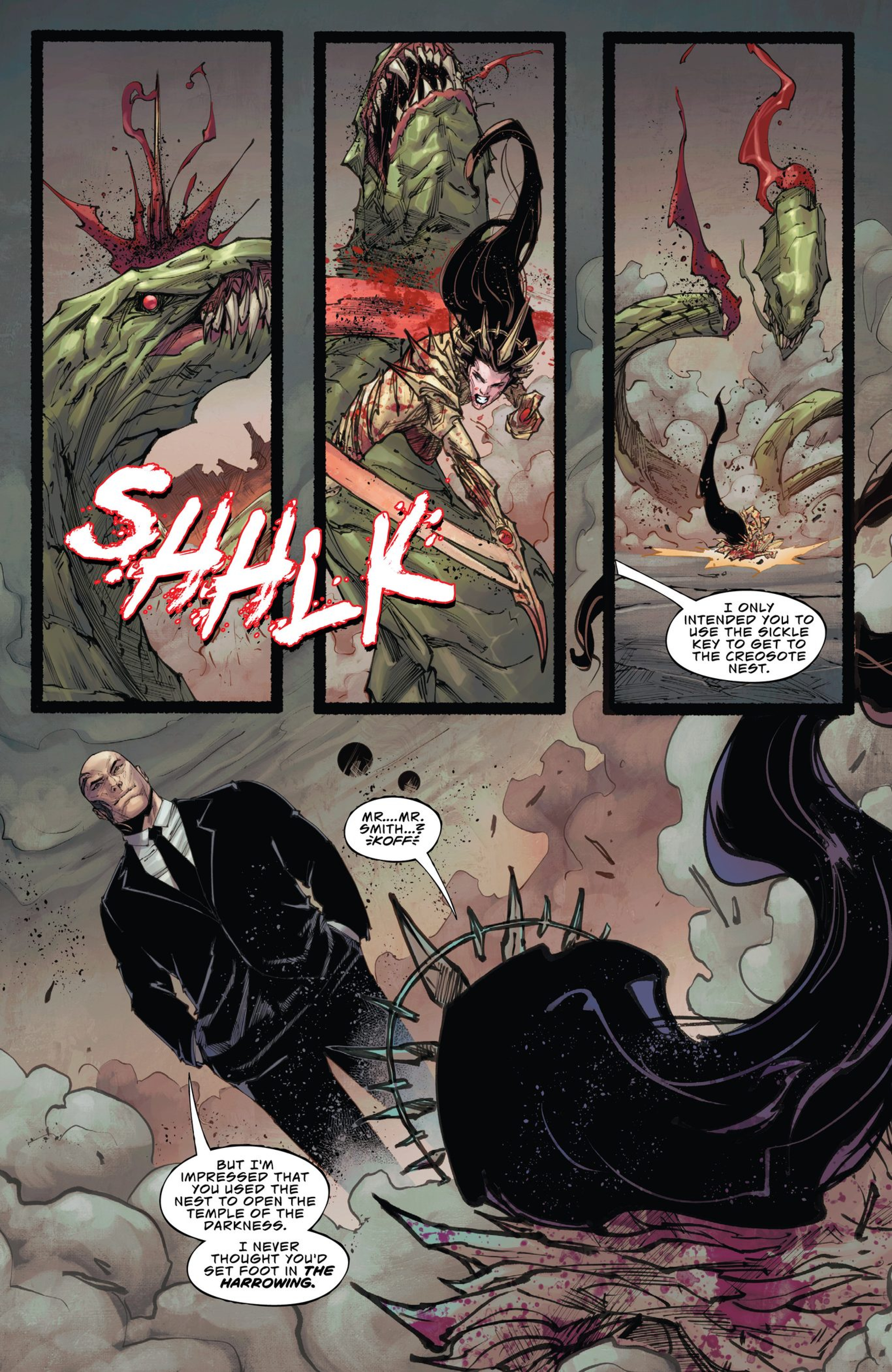

It will burn you out...
BWOOM
And without its healing...
LIKE A SNOWDROP... OR A LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY...
!
...THE BULLET THAT KILLED ME.

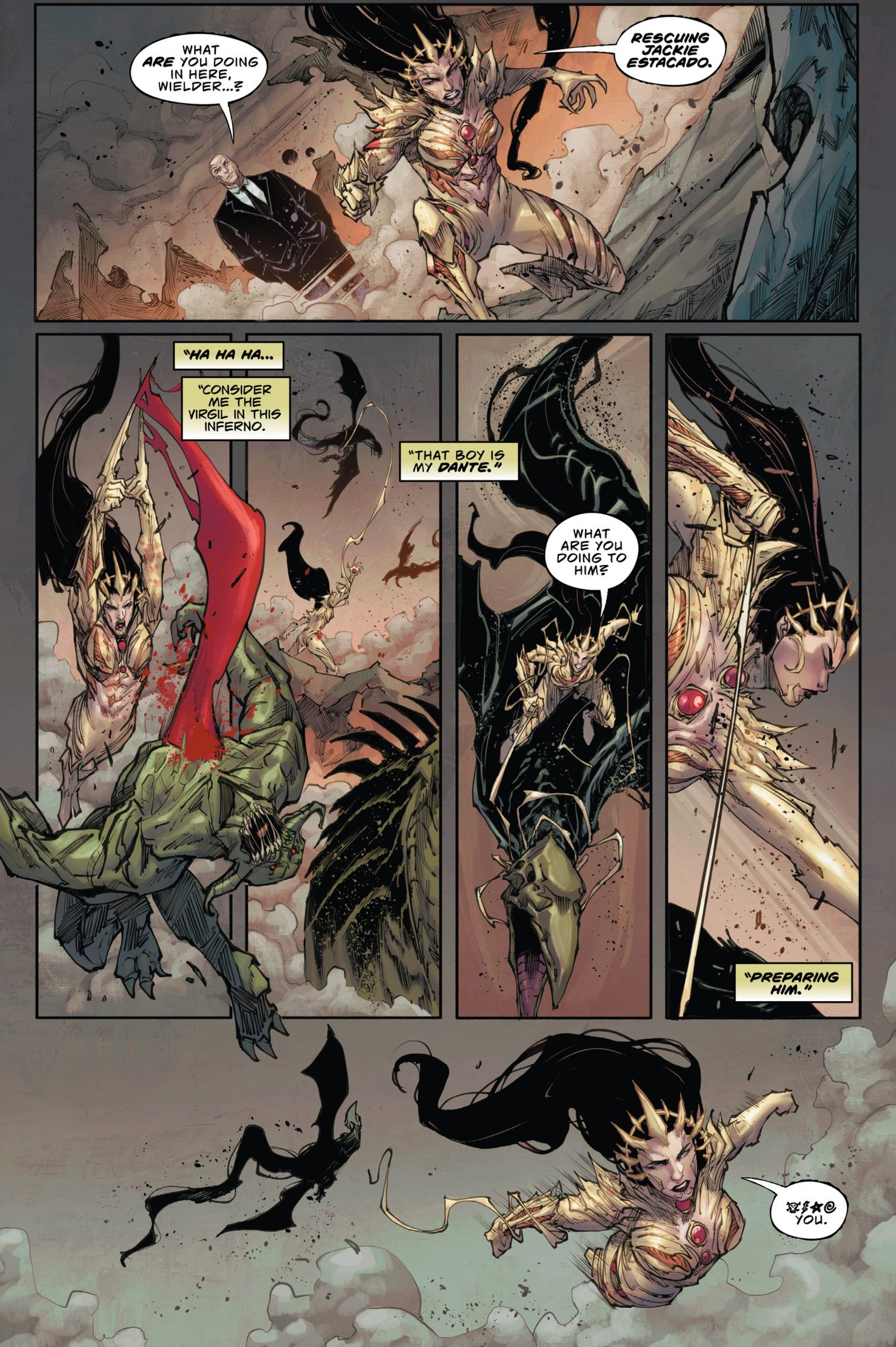

WHAT...?
OLD WOUNDS...
ALL MY OLD WOUNDS...
Without the Witchblade, what is your body?
A carcass.
...
I...SURVIVED... BEFORE THE WITCHBLADE...
I HEALED... MYSELF.
SCRAPED KNEES FROM FALLING OFF MY BIKE.
LOOSE TEETH FROM THIRD GRADE.
THE *IED* SHRAPNEL IN MY SIDE.
CUTTING MYSELF AFTER...AFTER...
AND THE WOUNDS, WOUNDS, ***WOUNDS...***
EVERY BATTLE, EVERY PERP--
CREOSOTES AND MONSTERS AND THE GLADIATORIAL PITS...
MY BODY DOES NOT BELONG TO THE ✵$★@ING WITCHBLADE.
MY BODY--***IS MINE.***
SWFFFFRMMMMBBBBLL
!

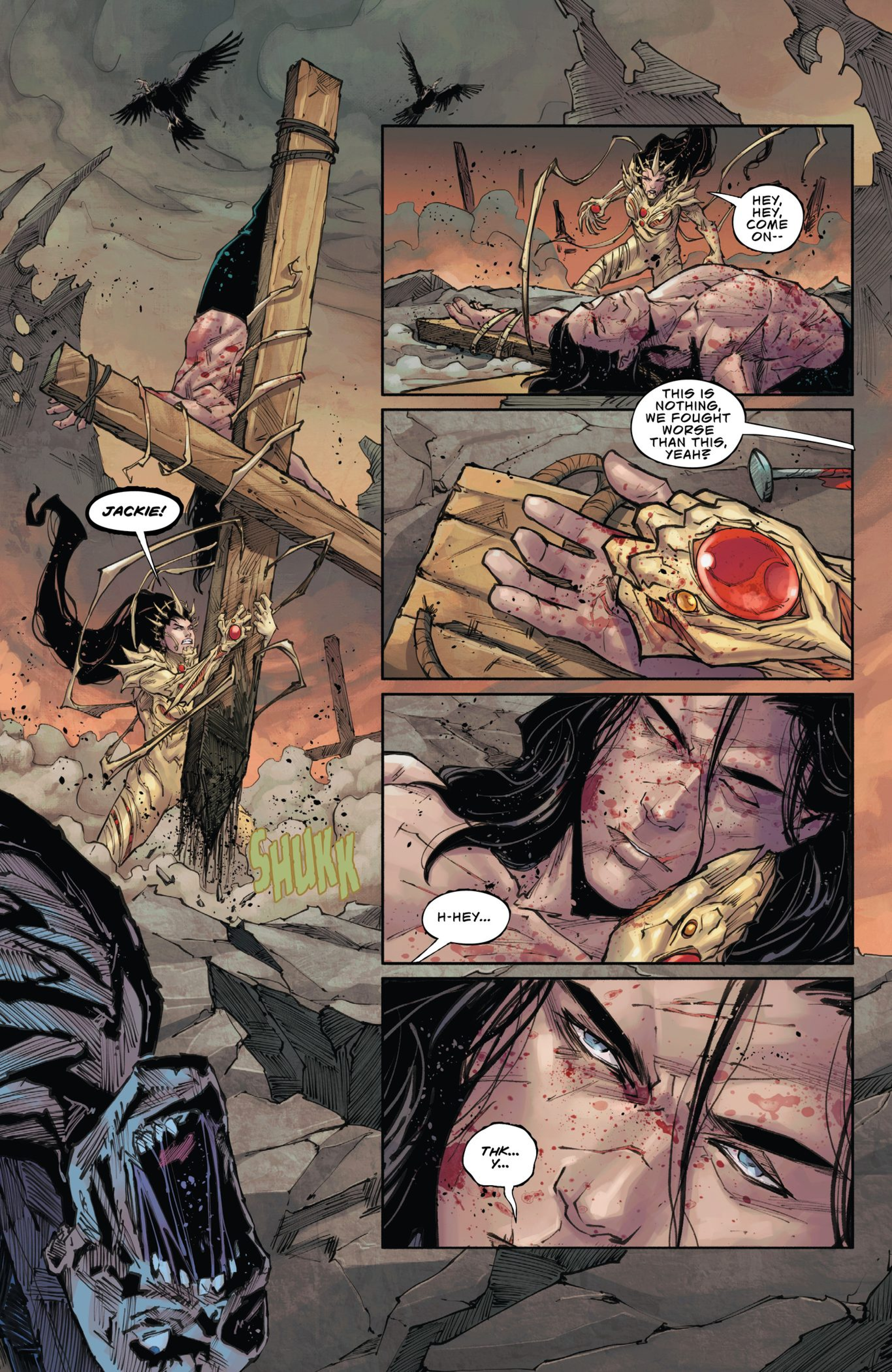

THE HARROWING.
WHAT THE ☠⚡★@...
IF THAT WAS *THE TEST OF THE BODY*...
...THIS IS *THE TEST OF THE MIND.*
I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE!
YOU'RE THE PHANTOMS ALL AROUND ESTACADO--
AND IF THIS IS ALL IN MY MIND, THEN I CAN TEAR THROUGH YOU LIKE--

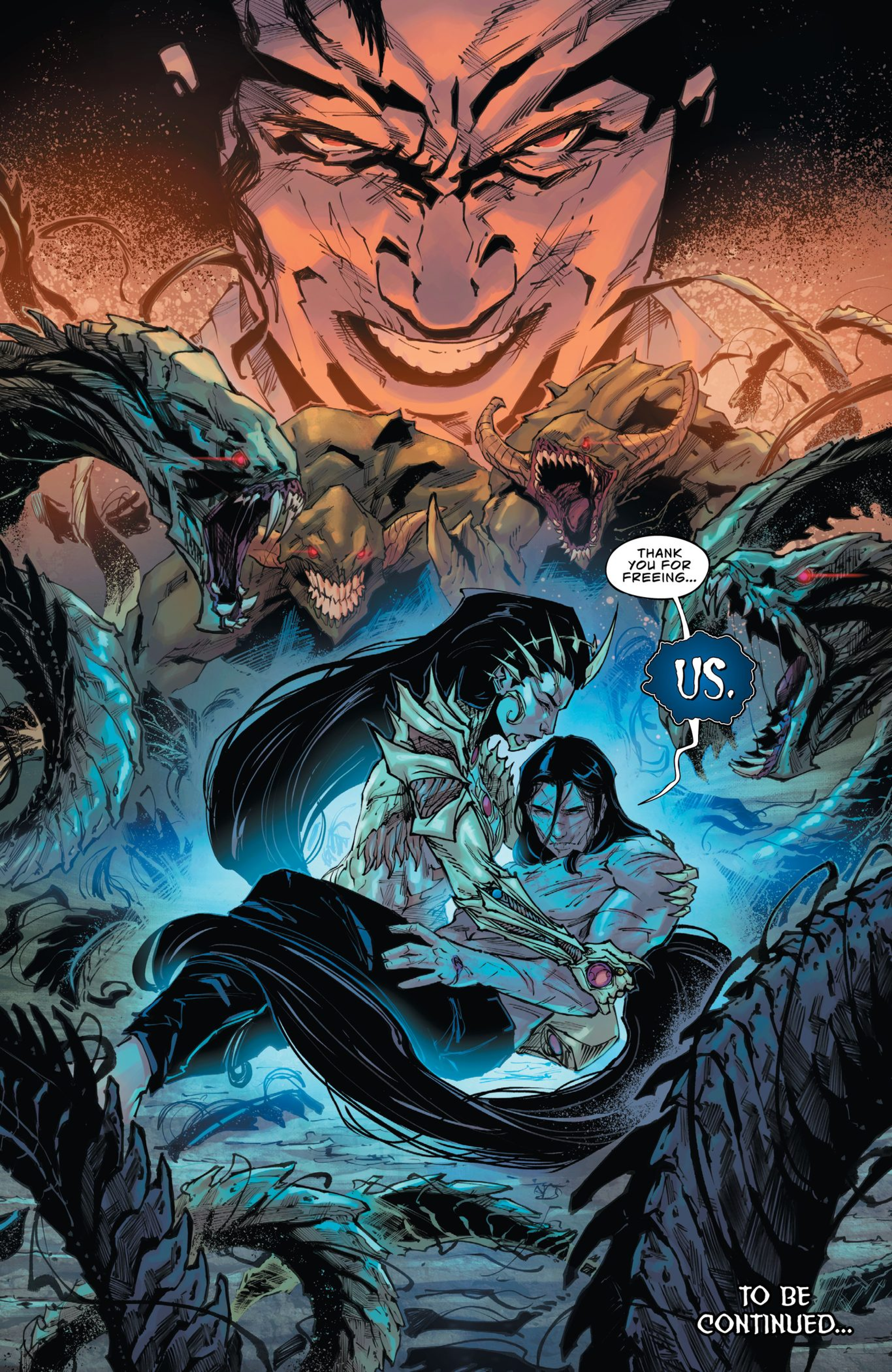

☠⚡★@!
SHWOOM
WHA-KOOM
!
NGH...
...WHAT.
WHO...?


JACKIE ESTACADO?!
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT.
JACKIE ESTACADO IS MY ENEMY.
KRAK
"THIS DOESN'T MAKE US FRIENDS."
CHOMP
AND YET...

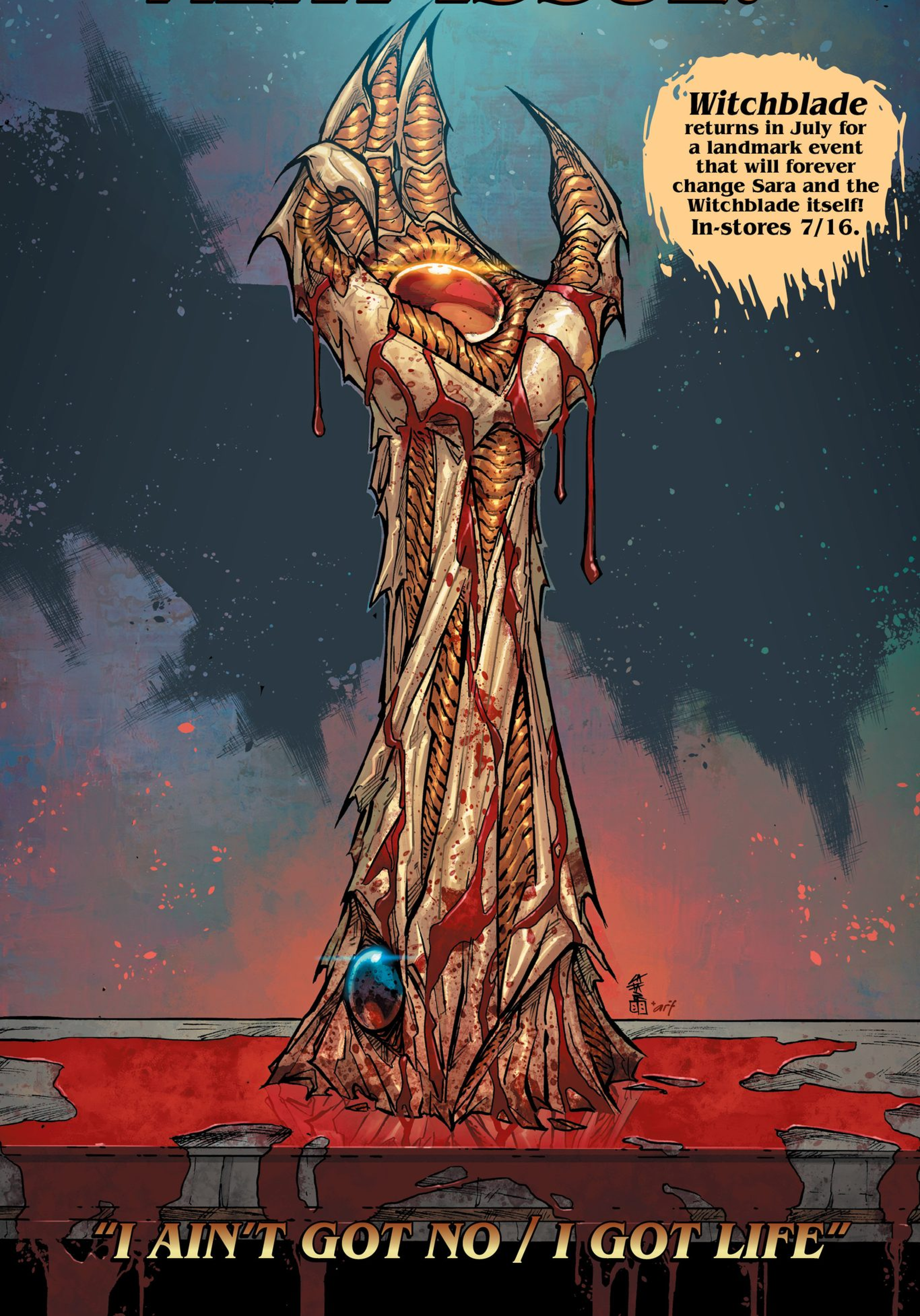

SHHLK
I ONLY INTENDED YOU TO USE THE SICKLE KEY TO GET TO THE CREOSOTE NEST.
MR....MR. SMITH... KOFF
BUT I'M IMPRESSED THAT YOU USED THE NEST TO OPEN THE TEMPLE OF THE DARKNESS.
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D SET FOOT IN THE HARROWING.


WHAT *ARE* YOU DOING IN HERE, WIELDER...?
RESCUING JACKIE ESTACADO.
"HA HA HA...
"CONSIDER ME THE VIRGIL IN THIS INFERNO.
"THAT BOY IS MY *DANTE*."
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HIM?
"PREPARING HIM."
☠⚡★@ YOU.


JACKIE!
SHUKK
HEY, HEY, COME ON--
THIS IS NOTHING, WE FOUGHT WORSE THAN THIS, YEAH?
H-HEY...
THK... Y...


THANK YOU FOR FREEING...
US.
TO BE CONTINUED...

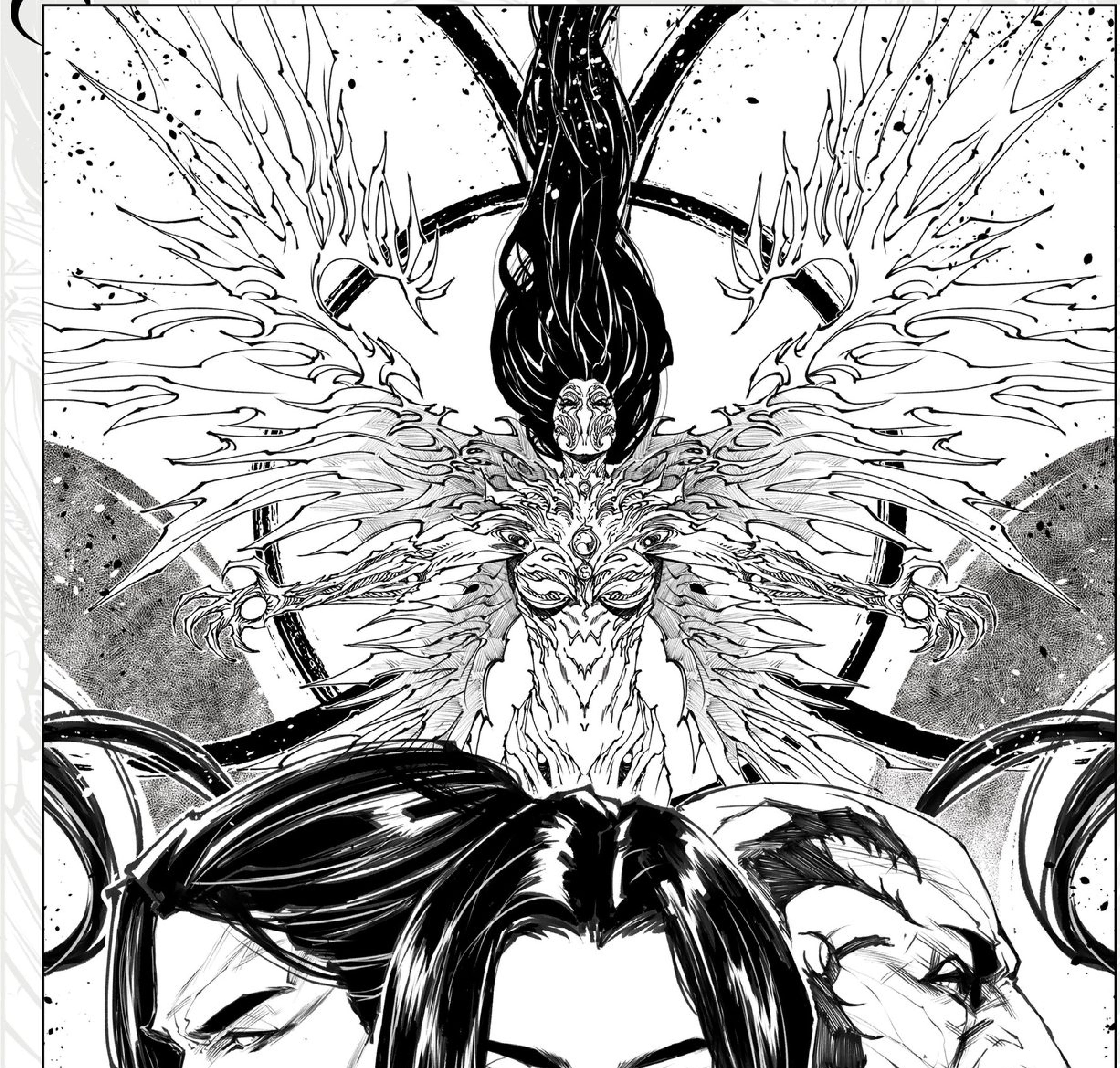
NEXT ISSUE!



Witchblade returns in July for a landmark event that will forever change Sara and the Witchblade itself! In-stores 7/16.

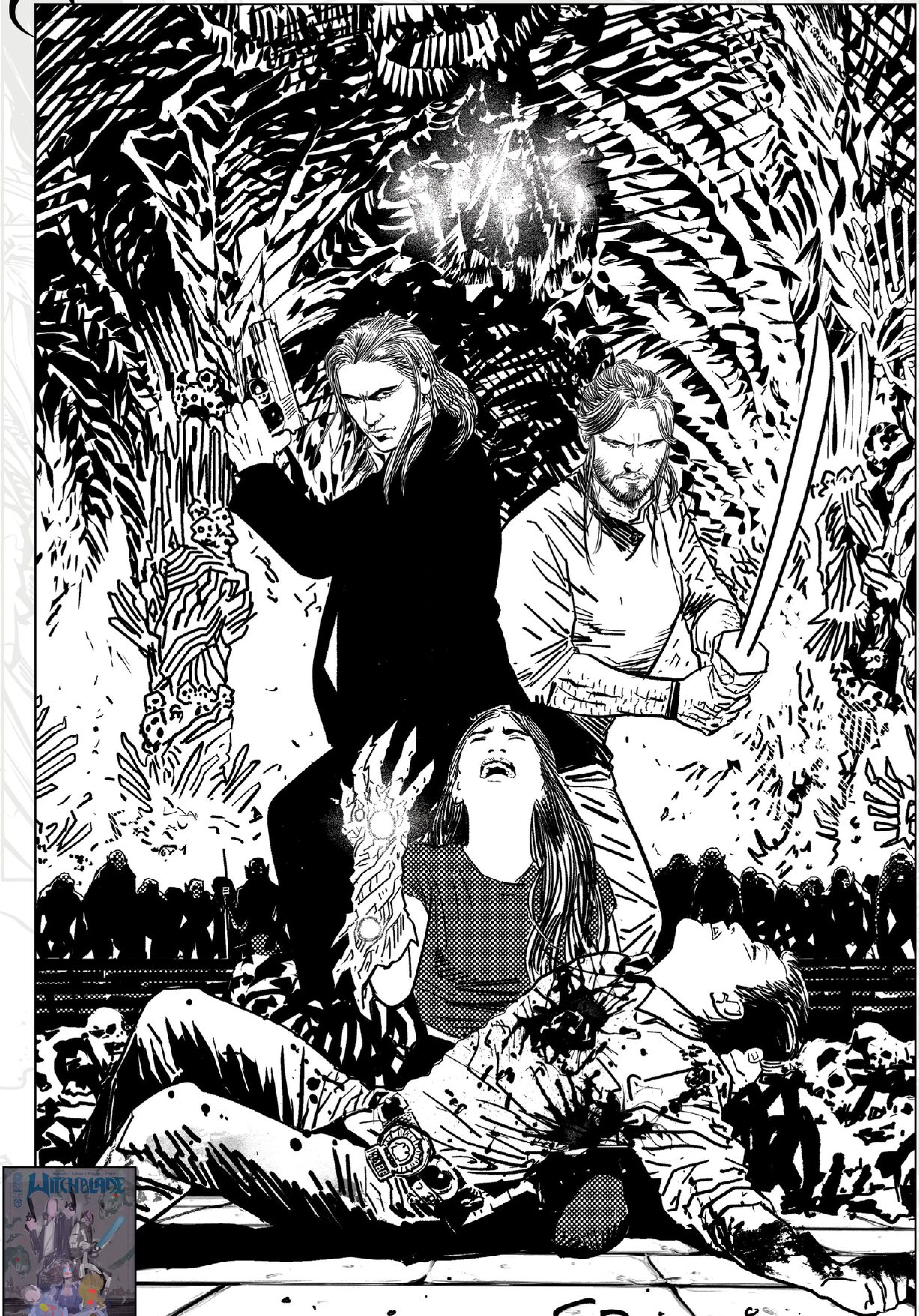
“I AIN'T GOT NO / I GOT LIFE”

WITCHBLADE #11 Gallery • Cover A Process

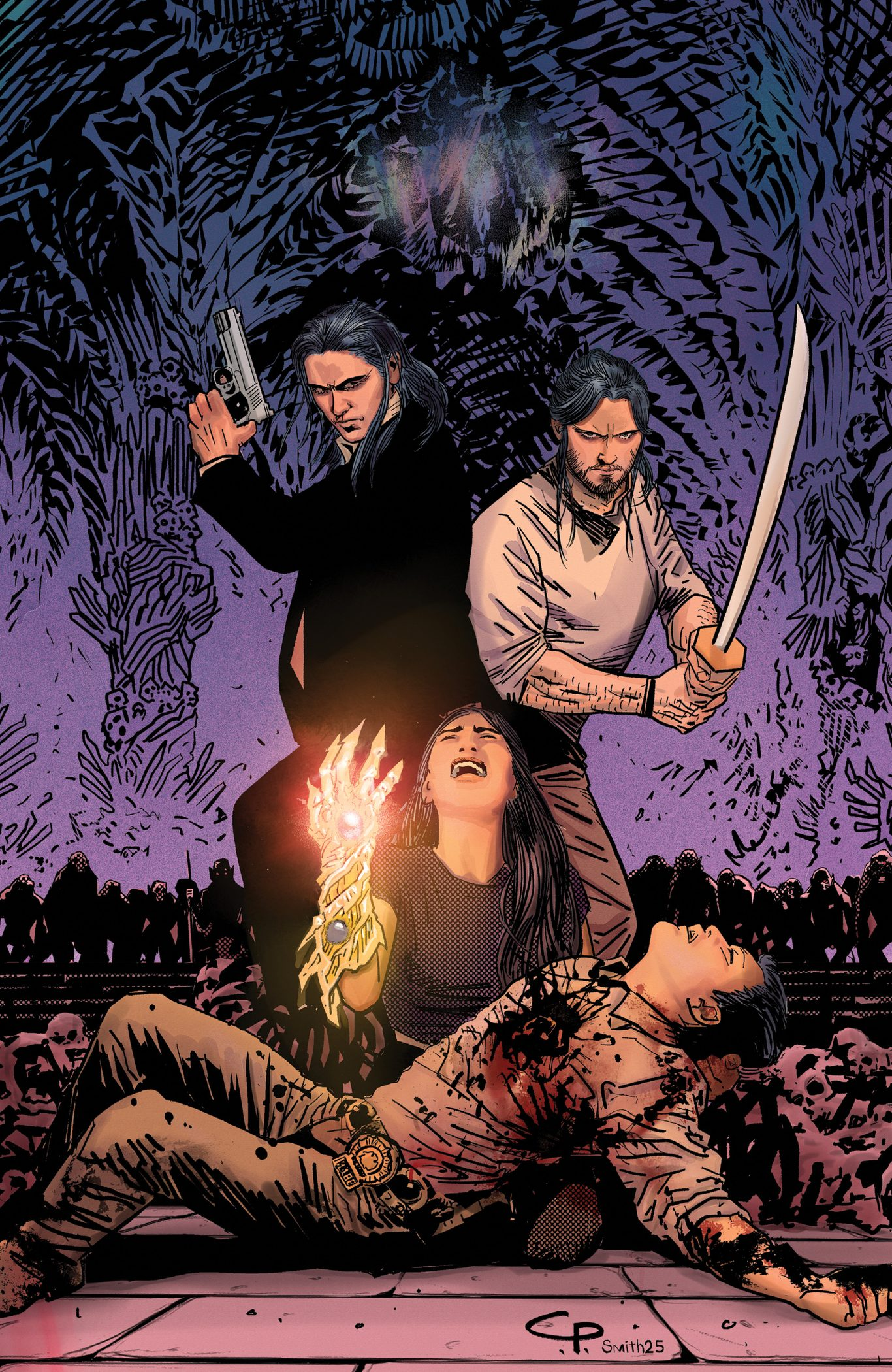


Witchblade #11, Cover A, process from thumbnail, line art to colors
Art by **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**

WITCHBLADE #11 Gallery • Cover B Process


CP
Smith25
WITCHBLADE

Witchblade #11, Cover B, process from thumbnail, line art to colors
Art by **C.P. Smith**


CP
Smith25

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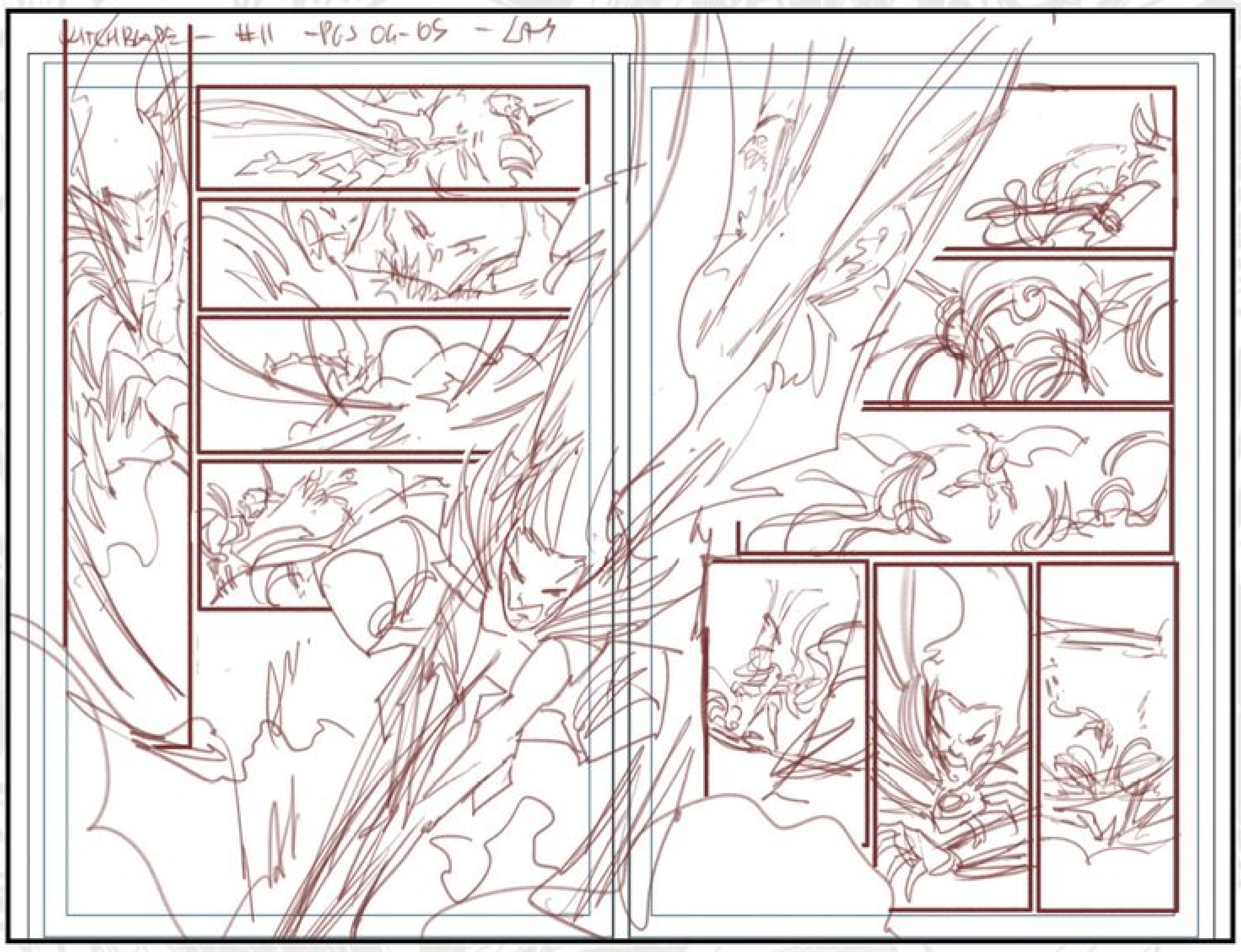
#11 Gallery • Page Process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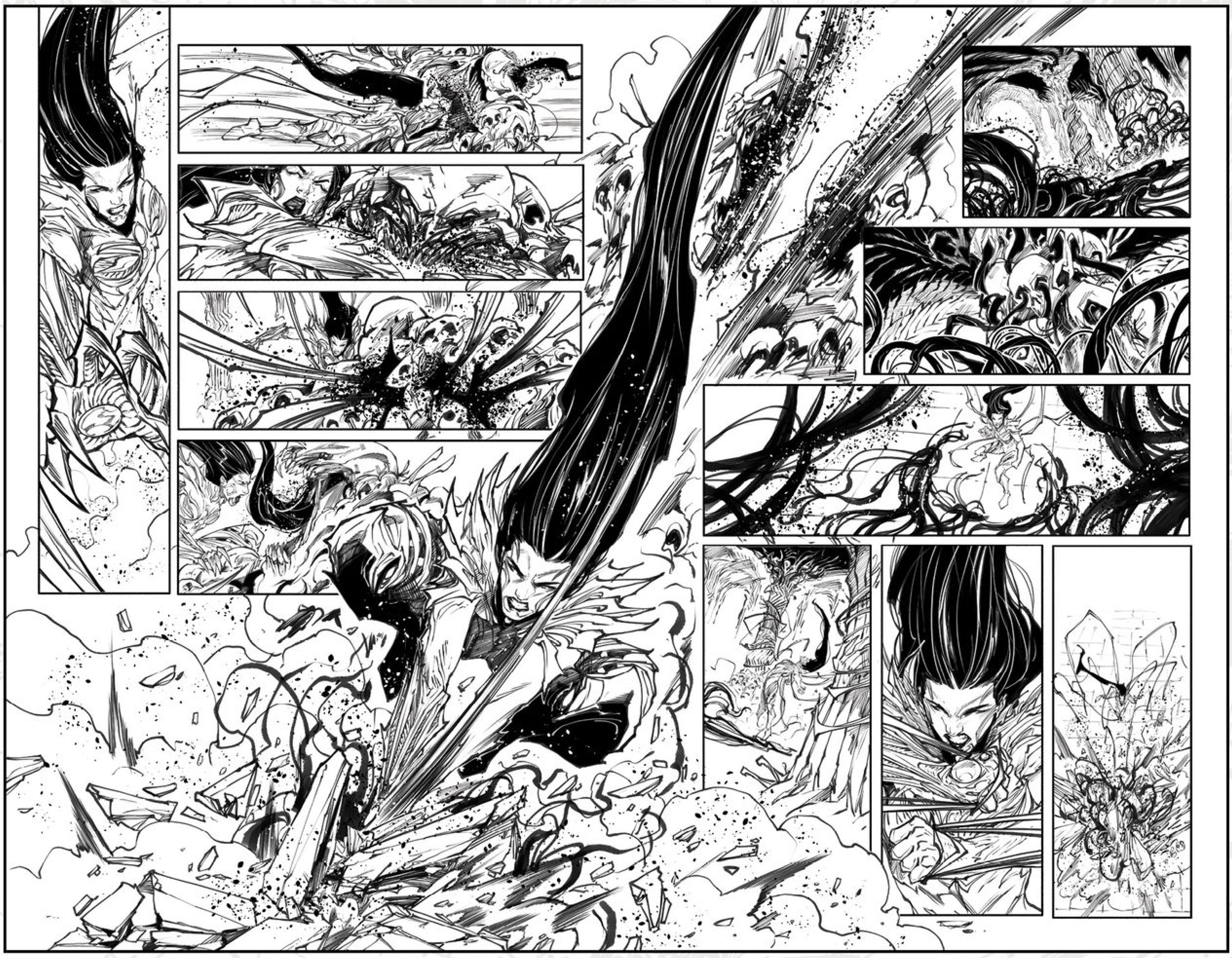
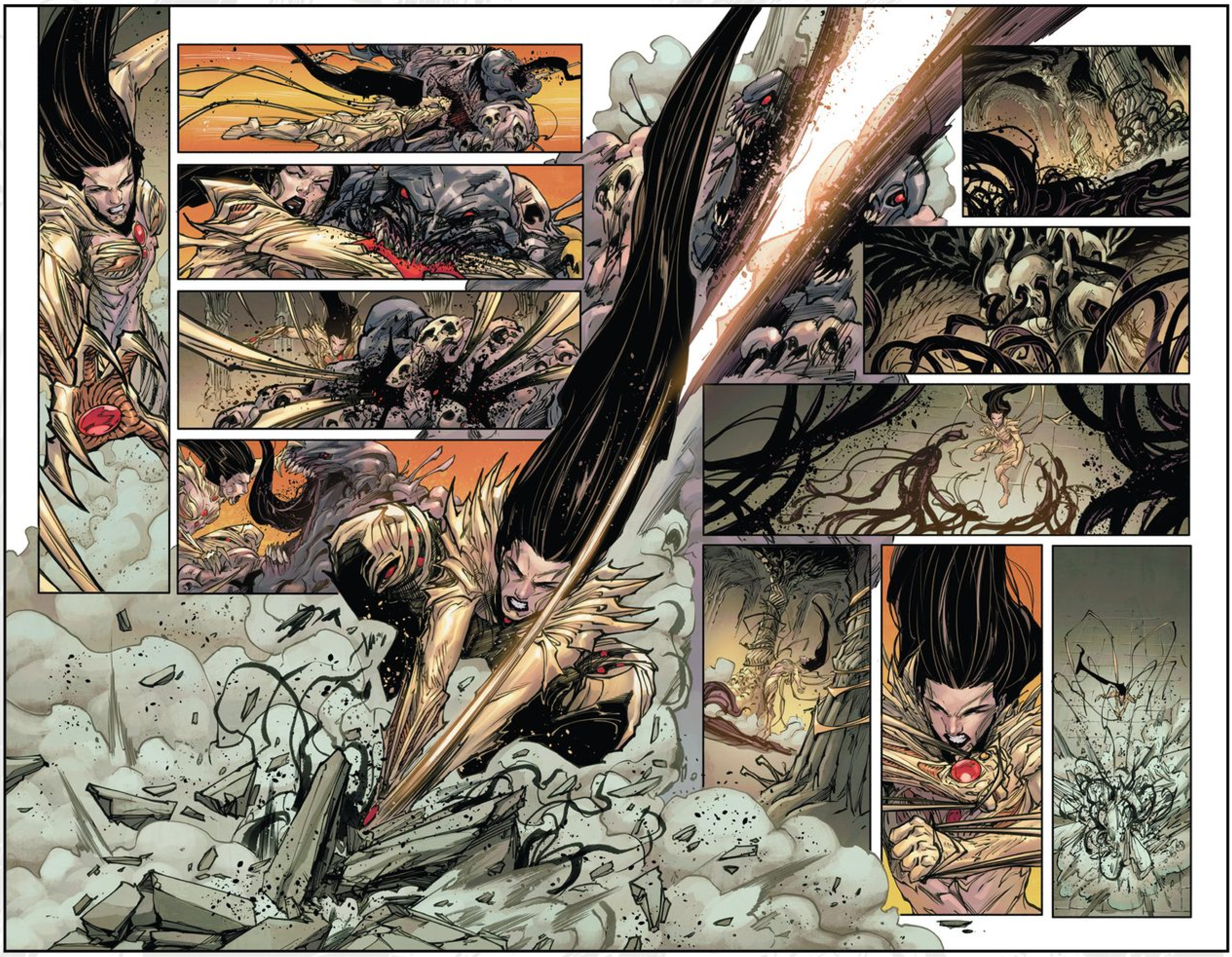
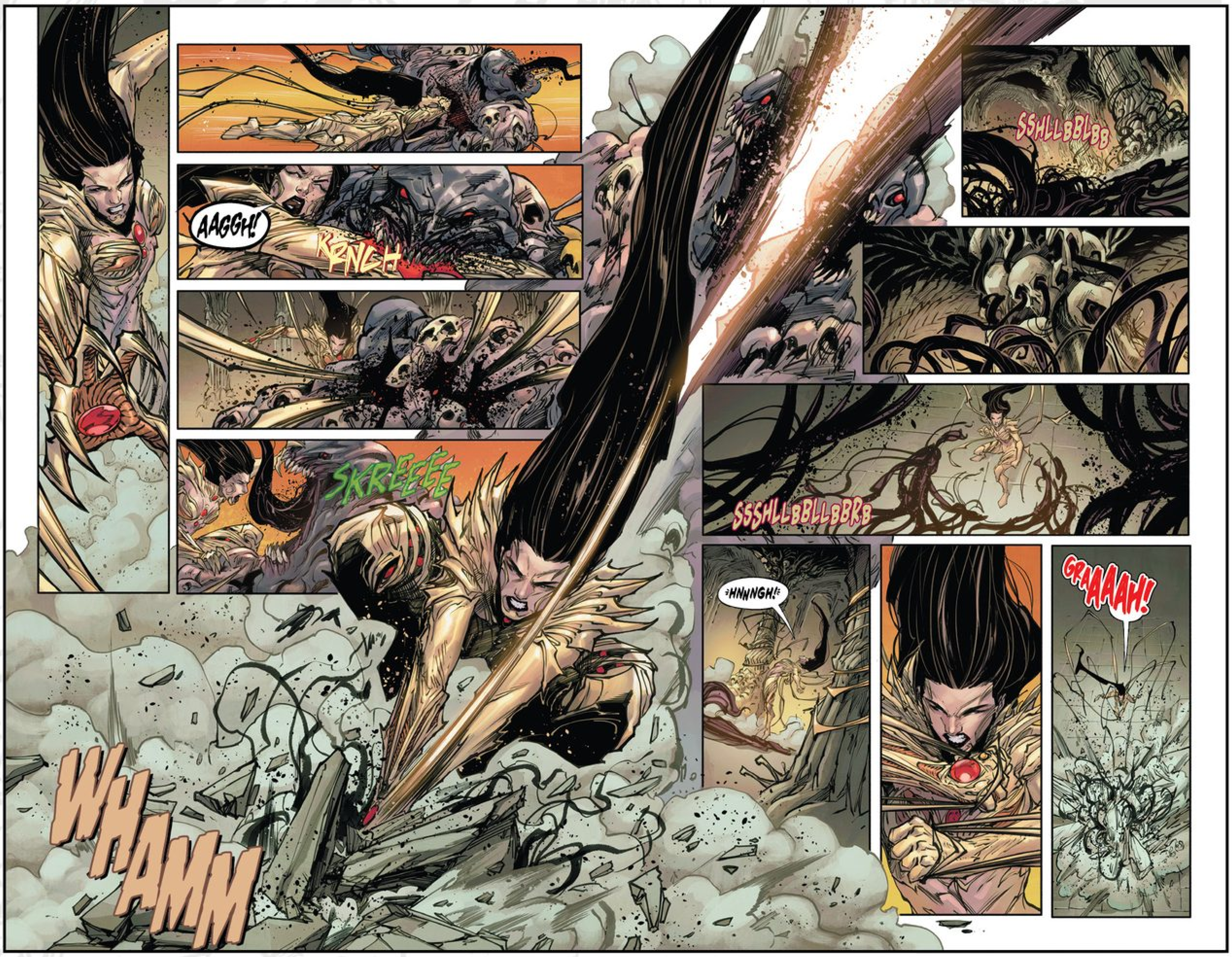


Witchblade #11, pages 4-5, process from thumbnails, line art, colors to letters




AAGGH!
KRNCH
SKREEEEE
WHAMM
SSHLLBBLBB
SSSHLLBBLLBBRB
HNNNGH!
GRAAAAH!

Creative Team

Marguerite Bennett is a GLAAD-nominated, *New York Times*-bestselling comic book writer based in Los Angeles.

Her credits include DC Comics' *Bombshells, Batwoman* and *RWBY*, along with *Animosity*, *Horde*, and *Insexts* through Aftershock Comics, and *MOTHER OF MADNESS* with *Game of Thrones* superstar Emilia Clarke for Image Comics. She has written *Mighty Morphin Power Ranger*s for Boom Studios, *Josie and the Pussycats* through Archie, *A-Force* and *Years of Future Past* at Marvel, *Red Sonja* and *Sheena* from Dynamite, and the indie horror darling *The Lot* for Bad Idea.

She is the lead writer of *Ark: The Animated Serie*s from Studio Wildcard.

Giuseppe Cafaro is an Italian artist who is based in Caserta, Italy. He started his professional career with the Italian publisher GGStudio, and right after, in 2012, he started to work for Aspen Comics on books like *Soulfire, Fathom: Kiani* and *Trish out of Water*, and Zenescope Entertainment as a cover artist for several years.

He worked over the last 10 years with other publishers, like DC Comics, on *Suicide Squad* and *Catwoman*, and Dynamite Entertainment, on *Red Sonja* and *Vampirella*. He also worked on graphic novels for Boom Studios based on the *Power Rangers* franchise.

In 2021, he collaborated with Tim Seeley and Steve Orlando on *LOADED BIBLE* for Image Comics. Also, he worked on some short stories for Heavy Metal with Blake Northcott and with Phil Smith for the book *Brik Jones: Attorney for Earth*, for his publisher Fighting Lion Comics.

Arif Prianto followed his dreams of working in comics and began his career as a professional colorist in 2007. Since then he has worked on titles from Top Cow Productions, Inc on *WITCHBLADE, THE DARKNESS*, for DC on *Batman & The Joker, Dark Knights of Steel,* and for Marvel on *Venom* and *Spider Woman*. He says that coloring comics is "the best job ever!"

Troy Peteri has been lettering comics for over 20 years and has worked for most publishers you've heard of, and plenty you haven't. He's lettered everything from *The Avengers, Iron Man, Wolverine,* and *Amazing Spider-Man* to more recent titles such as *WITCHBLADE*, *Shazam*, and his all-time favorite gig, *Batman & Joker: The Deadly Duo*.

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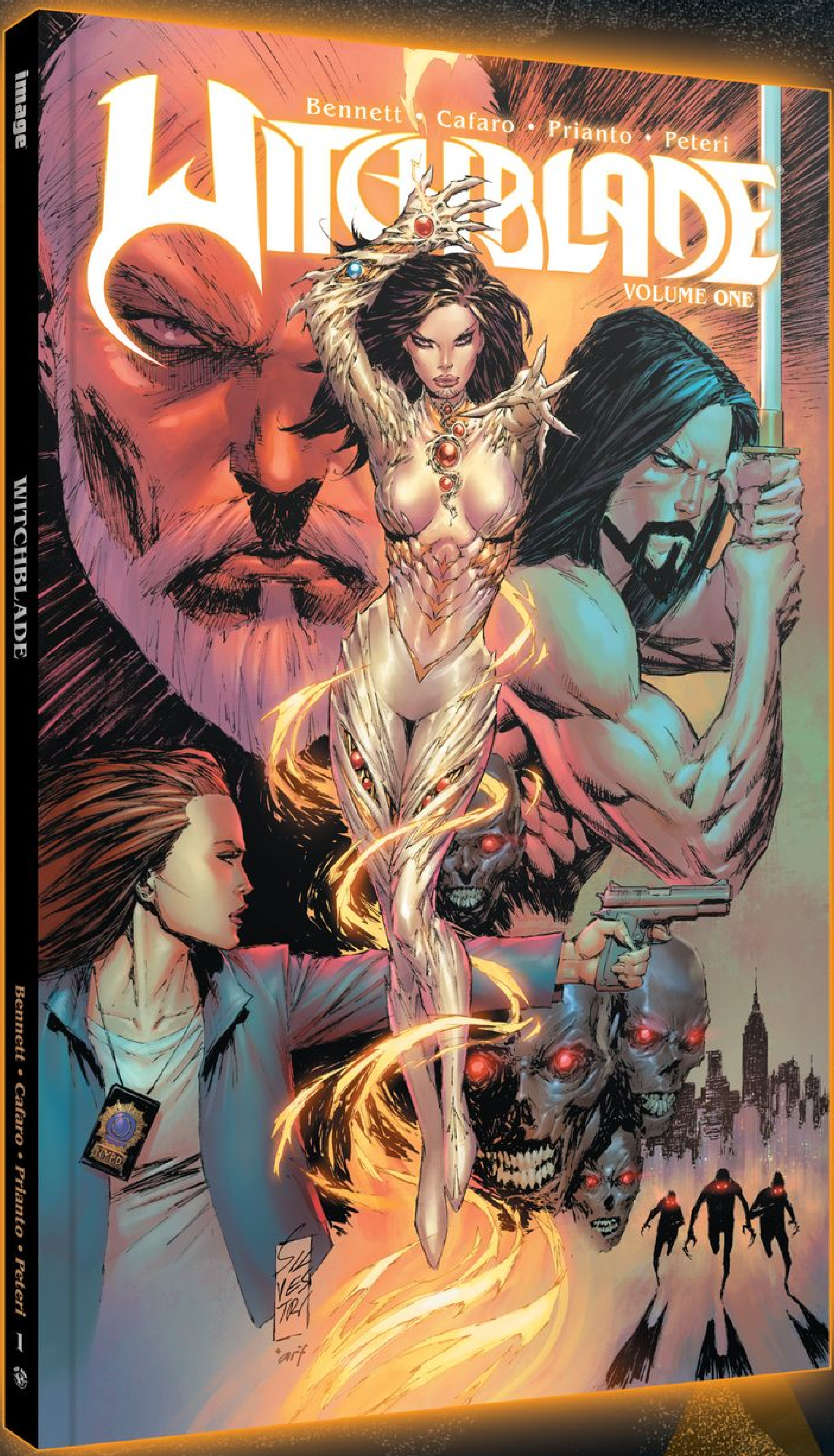
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WITCHBLADE
VOLUME ONE
WITCHBLADE
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1

WITCHBLADE®
VOLUME **ONE**

> “Hard-boiled supernatural noir hypercharged for the 21st century.”
> **—Kieron Gillen**
> ***(DIE, PHONOGRAM)***

> “Writer Marguerite Bennett continues a meticulous re-imagining of an enduring indie comics hero...”
> **Grade A – *You Don't Read Comics***

> “It is hard to hit the right balance when rebooting a series. The creative team needs to walk the tightrope of introducing fresh ideas while not ignoring the established lore. Bennett and her team have done just that with WITCHBLADE (#1).”
> **9.1/10 – *Geek'd Out***

> “An origin story that hits hard and fast! Bennett and Cafaro's WITCHBLADE is a gritty and exciting reimagining that leaves you desperately wanting issue two!”
> **– Chip Zdarsky**
> ***(SEX CRIMINALS, Batman)***

The first volume of a new WITCHBLADE series combines a reimagined origin with contemporary takes on familiar characters and new story arcs that rekindle the energy and excitement that fueled the ‘90s Image Revolution, which shaped generations of top creators.

New York City Police Detective Sara Pezzini's life was forever fractured by her father's murder. Cold, cunning, and hellbent on revenge, Sara now stalks a vicious criminal cabal beneath the city, where an ancient power collides and transforms her into something wild, magnificent, and beyond her darkest imaginings. Electrified with power, strength, healing, pleasure, and rage, every temptation lures her from her mission to find her father's killer. Sara thinks she possesses the Witchblade—but does it possess her?

This volume also includes an exclusive three-page teaser featuring another pillar of the Top Cow Universe, **THE DARKNESS!**

First printing introductory price of only $9.99 • Collects WITCHBLADE (2024) #1-6+#1/2
200 pages • Full Color • T+/Teen Plus • Lunar Order Code: 1124IM272 • ISBN: 978-1-5343-6060-0

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Linda Sejic
punderworld
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MOOSLETTER

More Love-Struck Misadventures from Linda Sejic's PUNDERWORLD!

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Returning this Winter.
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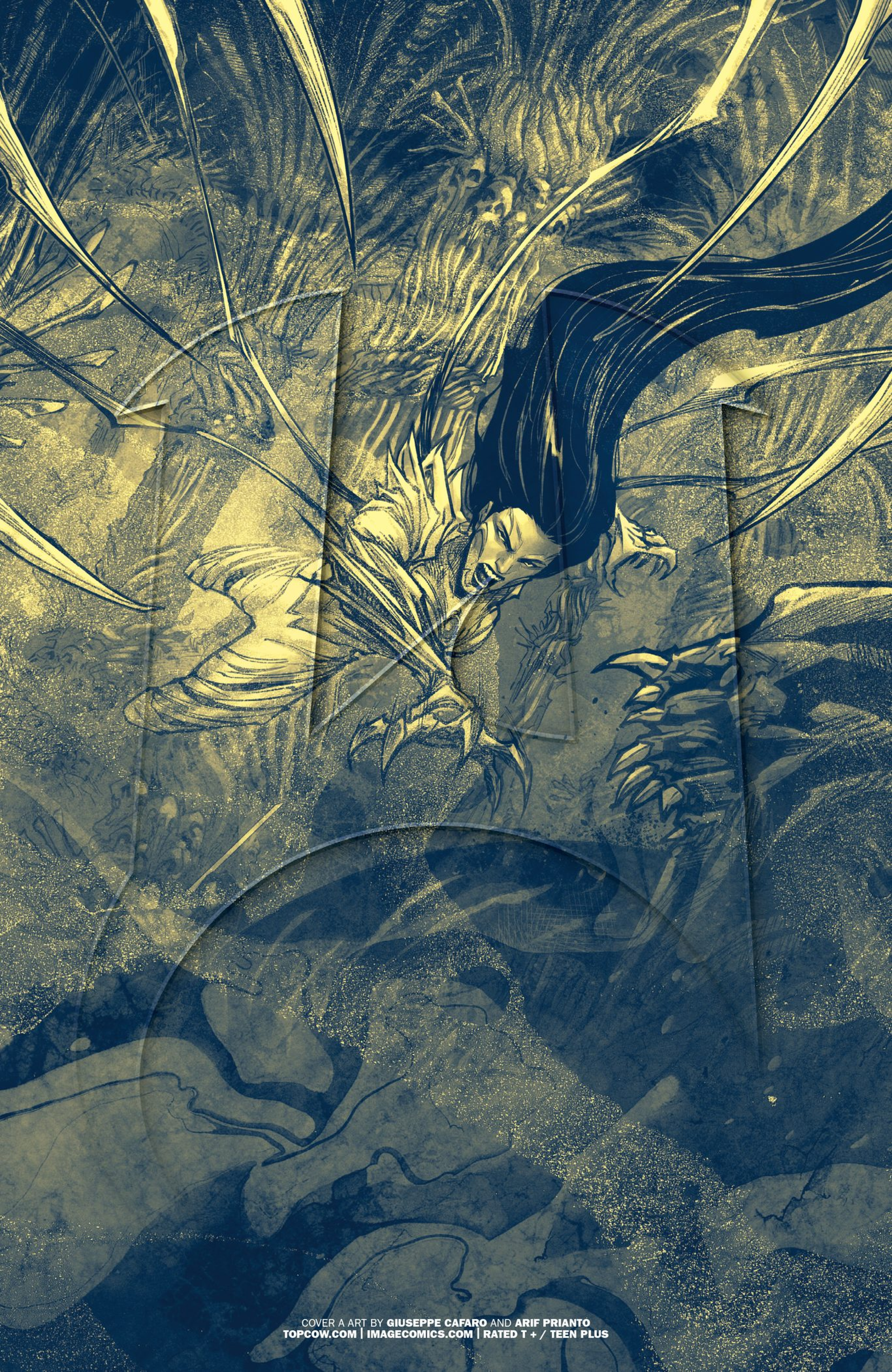

COVER A ART BY **GIUSEPPE CAFARO** AND **ARIF PRIANTO**
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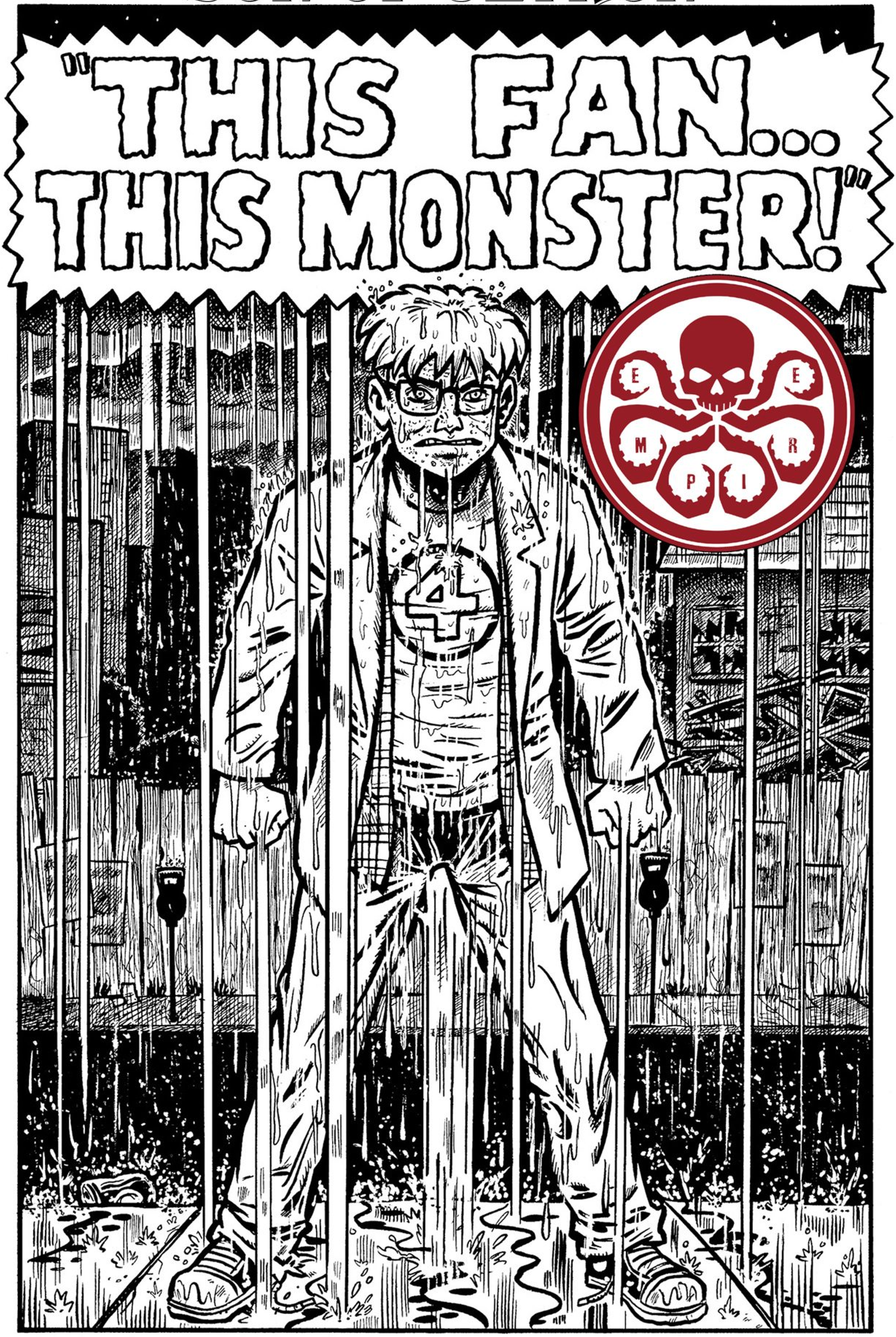
SON OF ULTRON


"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"